

Qadhafi meets U.N. envoy

TRIPOLI (AP) — Special U.N. envoy Vladimir Petrovsky had a three-hour "very extensive serious discussion" Monday with Muammar Qadhafi on how to end Libya's crisis with the West. Mr. Petrovsky told the Associated Press he relayed to Colonel Qadhafi a message from the U.N. secretary-general, Boutros Ghali, "a continuation of the secretary-general's efforts to find a solution." He said: "At this moment, I can tell you it was a very extensive serious discussion. The message was accepted and was discussed." He would not talk about his conversation with Col. Qadhafi in detail but said he will leave Libya Tuesday and report back to Dr. Ghali. On April 15, the United Nations invoked sanctions on arms sales, air travel and diplomatic representation intended to force Libya to hand over to the United States or Britain two suspects accused of bombing Pan Am flight 103 in 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Mr. Petrovsky's visit comes amid very slight hints from the Libyans of a possible solution to the crisis. In a recent speech, Col. Qadhafi spoke positively about the United States and Britain, saying he and the leaders of those countries share mutual respect. He said repeatedly that the two suspected Libyans could not be tried in the United States, but mentioned Britain only once. And he urged the Libyan people to settle the problem.



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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية (الراي)

Bashir extends olive branch to opponents

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Bashir has extended an olive branch to his virulent opponents ahead of peace talks with southern rebels. The official Sudan News Agency SUNA on Monday quoted an appeal addressed by Gen. Bashir to ousted opponents, less than two weeks before his government holds talks in Nigeria with Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) guerrillas. "I declare loudly my appeal to all Sudanese living abroad and inside the country here that we are sincere about offering opportunities of power-sharing to all Sudanese without isolation or discrimination," SUNA quoted Gen. Bashir as saying. He urged exiles to come home and share in nation building. Besides the SPLA which draws most of its support from the predominantly animist and Christian southern Sudan, communists at home and in exile vehemently oppose Gen. Bashir's government. A large section of the Umma Party of former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, ousted by Gen. Bashir in June 1989, and other banned parties are also working from abroad to topple Gen. Bashir. Many are based in neighbouring Egypt.

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Iran, Iraq exchange war prisoners

NICOSIA (R) — Seventy Iranian prisoners of war (PoWs) and seven Iraqis have been exchanged at an Iran-Iraq border point, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Monday. In the Sunday exchange at Khosravi border 570 kilometres southwest of Tehran, each side also returned the bodies of three soldiers killed in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. IRNA said. Iran and Iraq, which have exchanged more than 75,000 PoWs since August 1990, agreed a deal with the International Committee of the Red Cross in February to repatriate the remaining captives. The ICRC says there are around 20,000 Iraqi soldiers and at least 1,000 Iranians in Iraq. Tehran says many of the Iraqis do not want to return home and puts the number of Iranians held in Iraq at 5,000.

EC to recall envoys from Belgrade

BRUSSELS (AP) — The 12-nation European Community (EC) on Monday decided to recall their ambassadors from Belgrade to protest the involvement of the new, smaller Yugoslavia in the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. At a meeting in Brussels, the EC foreign ministers also agreed to seek the suspension of Yugoslavia from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. "There can be no recognition of Serbia and Montenegro as the successor state to Yugoslavia without preconditions," German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told reporters. He said as an initial step, the EC states will recall their envoys from Belgrade, capital of the new Yugoslavia — comprising Serbia and Montenegro — which declared itself independent on April 27. (See story on page 8).

Menem in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Argentine President Carlos Menem arrived Monday on a three-day official visit ending a Middle East tour. President Hosni Mubarak greeted Mr. Menem at Cairo international airport and accompanied him to the Koubba Guest Palace for official welcoming ceremonies. The two leaders will hold talks on Tuesday.

U.S. imposes sanctions on Russia-India deal

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has imposed limited sanctions on Russia and India for going ahead with a \$250 million rocket deal Washington tried to thwart. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Monday the sanctions would "narrowly focused against the agencies involved in the deal — Russia's Glavkosmos and the Indian Space Research Organisation. He could not say exactly what, if any, real impact it would have on the two governments. Russia plans to sell India cryogenic rocket engines powered with liquid nitrogen that India says it wants for its space programme. The United States claims the deal would violate the missile technology control regime, an agreement among Western states to limit the spread of missile technology, especially to the Third World.

Iran reports major drug hauls

TEHRAN (AP) — Six drug smugglers were killed and many wounded when security forces stormed their hideout in south-eastern Sistan-Baluchistan province, authorities announced Monday. Bahram Nowroozi, a senior police commander, said in the provincial capital of Zahedan that his forces seized 2,300 kilograms of narcotics and large quantities of weapons, including six rocket-propelled grenade launchers. He told a news conference that the smuggling operation was the seventh major narcotics ring smashed in the region in the last two months. The security forces have seized more than 6,400 kgs. of narcotics in these swoops, he said. Sistan-Baluchistan borders Pakistan and is a major conduit for narcotics from there en route to Europe through Iran and Turkey.

Sharif Zeid: Democracy is on course in Jordan

Elections will be held on time; economy faring well with better than projected results

By George Rawatneh

THE PRIME MINISTER, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, said Monday that elections for the next parliament will be held next year, as called for by the law, and that those polls will be contested on the basis of the new political parties' law which he expected to be passed by parliament in its upcoming extraordinary session in June.

Jordanian democracy is on an irreversible course, the prime minister told daily newspaper editors, and the government and the state are committed to ensuring that the Kingdom's democratic example will be a model for all countries in the region.

"Elections will be held on time," he said.

"What needs to be done is for parliament to legislate the political parties' law and for the citizen to practise his right to vote when elections are held."

The prime minister hailed the democratic path Jordan has charted for itself, saying it once again proves the Kingdom's crucial role in setting the right example for other countries in the region. "We are committed to this path, and we will protect it with all the means at our disposal," he stressed.

"Our commitment to human rights and to freedoms of citizens, within the limits of the law and responsibility, is unwavering." On the peace process, Sharif Zeid said Jordan's position has



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker always been consistent on the need to reach a peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict

and the Palestinian problem.

"Our position and policies have been vindicated," he said.

"Negotiations with the Israelis have not achieved much so far, it is true," the prime minister said.

"But in the end, the Israelis will have to give way to what is clearly just and right if they want peace in the area. We will not give up our legitimate rights under any circumstances."

In the meeting with editors, which is the first since he formed his government in November, Sharif Zeid warned against expecting from any quarter or country to deliver their rights for them. "We have right and legitimacy on our side. Others can

(Continued on page 5)

Press Association in disarray

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The festering problems of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) have led several members of its executive committee to resign in protest against the lack of progress in the running of its affairs and the situation is leading to a showdown between the resigned members and the president of the association, Hashem Khreisat.

So far, five members of the 10-member committee have resigned. A sixth, Abdul Hafez Mohammad, has died. This leaves the committee redundant since decisions can only be taken in a meeting where six

members are present.

According to several members interviewed by the Jordan Times, the recurrent financial problems of the association, the chronic in-house fighting, and what they describe as the lack of a proper and democratic decision-making process has brought the association to its knees both financially and morally. The resigned members expressed their belief that the only option left to salvage the association is through the election of another executive committee president.

Mr. Khreisat, who has headed the association for the past three years, was apparently seeking a compromise with the resigned members and out-

side forces which could influence them so that he could complete the ten months left on his term. But resigned members insist that the association cannot survive another 10 months on that footing and has to be rescued immediately.

Although the resigned members and the president seem in agreement over the important tasks facing the association, Mr. Khreisat is repeatedly accused of taking a conciliatory attitude towards issues which require immediate action or may need confrontation with the government and newspaper owners.

"This lack of firmness has

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan to address 3 aspects of refugee problem

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the working group on Middle East refugees in Ottawa said Monday that he will submit a working paper dealing with three dimensions related to the Palestinian refugees.

Dr. Jawad Al Anani said in a statement before his departure for the meeting, which opens Wednesday, that the Jordanian paper will focus on the need for international action... over the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions regarding the repatriation or compensation of refugees.

Jordan's role in providing services to the refugees and the consequences of Palestinian people's forced migrations of 1948 and 1967 as well as the economic impact on Jordan of the eviction of Palestinians from Kuwait and the Gulf.

The paper will also focus on the need for a new order to protect the refugees' rights since the present order seems incapable of doing so, Dr. Anani said.

He said Jordan will demand financial compensation to make up for the damage to its economy resulting from Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the expulsion of Palestinians to Jordan.

Also leaving Amman was a Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the working group on water resources in the region to open in Vienna on May 13.

Dr. Munther Haddadin, who leads the delegation, said he would submit a working paper stressing the need for the restoration of usurped water rights and the implementation of U.N. resolutions as a condition for the start of regional cooperation backed by rich and experienced nations.

Jordan's delegation to the working group meetings on disarmament and regional security arrived in Washington Sunday to take part in the talks which opened Monday. The Washington meeting is attended by delegates from 20 countries and international organisations, including 12 Arab states, Israel, Russia, the U.S. and the European Community.

The working group on economic development in the Middle East opened sessions in Brussels Monday with the attendance of representatives of Russia and the U.S. as co-sponsors, along with delegates from 40 countries including Jordan and Palestine.

The Jordan delegation, which is led by Dr. Fawaz Tarawneh, plans to submit a working paper dealing with the economic imbalances in the Middle East.

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with religious leaders from the occupied territories and members of the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs (Petra photo)

King reaffirms commitment to protecting holy shrines

\$8.24 million personal donation for Dome of the Rock

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Monday heads of Islamic and Christian communities and religious leaders from the occupied territories as well as members of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs and reviewed Jordan's efforts to restore the holy places in Jerusalem. The King said he was pleased to receive and welcome the audience at

the Royal Court, voicing Jordanian people's pride in the Palestinian people's steadfastness. "I cannot express in words my true feelings to you and to the Palestinian people in Jerusalem and the occupied Arab lands who are symbols of steadfastness and endurance," the King said.

The King voiced Jordan's absolute support for the Palestinian people, noting that it was an honour for Jordan to carry out part of its duty

towards Jerusalem and the holy places. "It was impossible to imagine ourselves shirking our responsibilities towards the holy land regardless of the cost," the King said, noting that Jordan will continue to provide support for the Palestinians.

He said Jordan's move to restore the Dome of the Rock Mosque was not a mere reaction to any attempt in

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin to cut funds for 'political' settlements

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Opposition Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin said on Monday he would cut spending on settling Jews in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories to attract sorely needed foreign aid for immigrants.

Mr. Rabin, who is challenging Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in a general election on June 23, told 500 New York Jewish fundraisers:

"When we are short of money, when we demand that others assist us to absorb newcomers, we have to show that charity starts at home, that this is our highest national priority."

He told some of the group afterwards he believed Washington, Israel's longstanding financial backer, might be less forthcoming with foreign aid because of the demand for money to cope with problems accentuated by riots in Los Angeles.

Mr. Rabin said that in all the land occupied in 1967, he favoured Jewish settlement only

wanted the money for immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Under Mr. Shamir the number of Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has risen to 100,000.

Washington views the settlements as an "obstacle to the peace."

The influx of 400,000 Jews into Israel, mainly from Russia and other ex-Soviet republics, has boosted unemployment to a 20-year record of 11 per cent. Tens of thousands of would-be immigrants have delayed their plans to move.

Mr. Rabin said he would spend \$1.5 billion on the fight against unemployment instead of on "political settlements," which he said did not enhance Israeli security.

"I believe it will facilitate Israel getting loans on a large scale, guaranteed, non-guaranteed by governments in the United States and Europe," he said.

Mr. Rabin said that in all the land occupied in 1967, he favoured Jewish settlement only

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli units accused of 'summary executions'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian human rights group accused Israeli undercover units in the occupied territories of conducting "summary executions" in a report released on Monday.

The Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) said the units killed 29 Palestinians in the occupied territories last year. An unofficial count by Reuters shows the units killed at least 20 this year.

"The circumstances of the killings by undercover units and the lack of investigation by military authorities give strong evidence of an official Israeli policy of summary executions," the PHRIC report said.

The report follows charges by Palestinian nationalists and Israeli human rights groups of cold-blooded killings.

An army spokesman dismissed PHRIC's report as "preposterous and cheap propaganda." He denied the army had a shoot-to-kill policy.

Since January, the army said it had arrested 1,400 wanted Palestinians and killed 31 in a crackdown on armed activists.

In what it described as a "characteristic pattern" of the killings, the PHRIC report said: "The soldiers begin firing at close range and aim above the

waist, usually at the head, without issuing a warning shot.

"In cases where the victim has not been killed in the first burst of fire and is only wounded and lying on the ground, undercover soldiers have approached and fired again, killing the victim at close range, or have beaten the victim until death."

PHRIC said the army version of events normally differed significantly from eyewitness accounts. "Typically the victim is said to have been shot while fleeing, to have been a member of a military cell or to have been engaged in 'suspicious activity'."

PHRIC said its review concluded there was a policy shift by military authorities making greater use of covert forces and easing restrictions for firing on Palestinians.

Israeli army commander of the occupied West Bank Major-General Danny Yatom said last week the army had "adjusted" its firing order to answer a sharp rise in gun attacks by Palestinians waging a 4½-year-old uprising.

The army sought to defend the policy after an Israeli couple told state-run television and local newspapers they saw an undercover unit shoot at Palestinians in

(Continued on page 5)

Chinese minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fu Chang, arrived in Amman Monday on a three-day visit to Jordan as part of a tour of Middle Eastern countries.

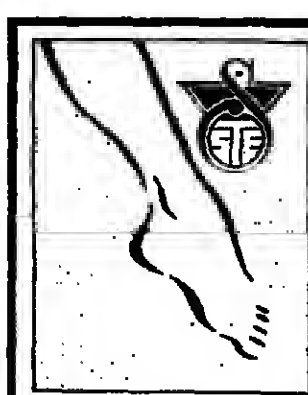
Mr. Yang said in an interview upon his arrival in Amman that he will hold talks with Jordanian officials on issues of concern to Jordan and China. He told Petra that he will exchange views with them on current regional and international issues.

The Chinese official lauded Jordanian-Chinese relations and expressed satisfaction over the level of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in economic and commercial fields.

He said that his country will participate in the multilateral meetings of the Middle East peace conference and will air its views on the various issues listed on the agenda of the meetings of these groups. He affirmed that Chinese delegations to these meetings will do their best to bring the meetings to a successful end.

On Israel's refusal to participate in the meetings of certain working groups, the minister said that any meetings on the conflict in the Middle East would contribute to solving problems in the region.

Mr. Yang was received at the airport by Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Mu'tasem Al Bilbeisi, the director of the Political Department at the ministry and Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Zhang Liang.



DETAILS ON PAGE (2)

Hrawi seeks new premier

BEIRUT (AP) — President Elias Hrawi began consultations with parliamentarians Monday to find a new prime minister and government to try to harness the country's spiraling economic crisis.

The country, struggling to recover from 15 years of civil war that ended in October 1990, was plunged into a new political crisis last Wednesday when Prime Minister Omar Karame resigned.

Mr. Karame's half-Muslim, half-Christian government collapsed after 16 months in office amid strikes and riots protesting the country's worst economic crisis since independence.

A presidential palace statement said the consultations will last two days, after which Mr. Hrawi will name a premier provided he is supported by a majority of parliament's 108 Christian and Muslim members.

Under a national covenant dating from Lebanon's independence from France in 1943, the presidency has been held by a Maronite Catholic, the premiership by a Sunni Muslim and the parliament speakership by a Shiite Muslim.

That covenant, designed to guarantee peaceful coexistence

between Lebanon's sects, was retained in an Arab League-brokered peace accord that ended Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanon's economy, ravaged by the civil war, has slipped into chaos since the conflict ended. International aid has not been forthcoming to help pay for a reconstruction bill estimated at \$20 billion.

The Lebanese pound, once the soundest currency in the Middle East, plummeted to a record low of 2,100 to the U.S. dollar last Tuesday.

It sold for 880 to the dollar in February. Before the war, the rate was 2.5 to the dollar. In a country which imports 85 per cent of its basic needs, the dramatic currency depreciation caused a sharp increase in prices.

Angry demonstrators took to the streets demanding Mr. Karame's resignation. They attacked banks, ransacked money exchanges and blocked roads with burning rubber tires for two days.

The 350,000-member General Federation of Labour Unions, which sponsored the demonstrations, suspended a general strike after Mr. Karame resigned.

The federation has given Mr.

Hrawi until May 18 to form a new government capable of tackling the economic crisis or face more strikes and riots.

Mr. Hrawi spent Friday and Saturday in Damascus discussing the situation with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Syria has 40,000 troops deployed in 80 per cent of Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

After a meeting with Mr. Hrawi, Karame said, Monday: "We suggested the next prime minister be from parliament and we recommended he be Amin Al Hafez or Rashid Al Solh."

Official sources said Mr. Solh, 66, a lawyer who was prime minister when the Lebanese civil war broke out in 1975, had emerged as the leading candidate but said that might change.

Mr. Hafez, an economist and parliamentarian, was prime minister briefly in the early 1970s until he lost a vote of confidence. Like Mr. Karame, he is from the northern city of Tripoli.

Mr. Karame was one of 50 members of parliament to have meetings on Monday with Mr. Hrawi.

Diplomats said Mr. Assad



Elias Hrawi

would privately have to endorse Mr. Karame's successor and the key ministers in a new cabinet.

Others tipped as possible prime ministers include Selim Al Hoss, a U.S.-educated economist who served several terms as prime minister during the war, and Sami Al Khatib, interior minister in the Karame government and a close ally of Damascus.

The sources said the new cabinet was expected to include both technocrats and former militia warlords.

Mubarak opposes military action against Libya

CAIRO (Agencies) — Making a point about Libya, President Hosni Mubarak has told an interviewer he would never condone military action against an Arab country "whatever the circumstances."

But he said circumstances were sufficiently different after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 for Egypt to become a key ally of the United States in its military coalition and take action against Iraq.

"It would be impossible for me to agree to a strike against any Arab country whatever the circumstances," Mr. Mubarak told Mayo, his National Democratic Party's weekly newspaper published Mondays.

Noting Egypt's participation in the anti-Iraq Gulf war alliance, Mr. Mubarak said Baghdad rejected all international appeals to voluntarily quit its occupied neighbour's territory.

Egypt sent 38,500 troops to the U.S.-led coalition that ejected Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February 1991 after a six-week air and ground war.

During the seven-month crisis, Iraq severed diplomatic relations with Egypt, its former ally in a regional alliance. Mr. Mubarak told Mayo that restoring relations with President Saddam Hussein would be "a difficult matter after all that happened."

In ruling out anti-Arab military action, Mr. Mubarak did not name Libya but obviously had it in mind. On April 30, he told a rally he persuaded President George Bush to avoid military action in punishing Libya for refusing to turn over to the United States or Britain two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland.

At the behest of the United States, Britain and France, the U.N. Security Council imposed air travel, arms and diplomatic sanctions on Libya that took effect April 15. Despite this, U.S. officials have said that all options remain open for further measures if Libya does not turn over the

suspects and end all "terrorist" links.

Mr. Mubarak told Mayo he never asked Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to surrender the bombing suspects. "I will never do so," he said. "This is a matter that concerns the Libyan people and their leadership."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Sunday that Arab ministers had 10 new proposals to solve the confrontation between Libya and the West.

Mr. Musa told Reuters in an interview that a current mission to Tripoli by United Nations envoy Vladimir Petrovsky would be important "to ask the Libyan government whether they have developed any new idea."

Asked whether a seven-nation Arab League committee working on the crisis had any fresh suggestions, Mr. Musa said: "At this moment I really cannot report to you any new idea."

Egypt has played a leading part in trying to find a way out of the crisis.

"We as Arabs cannot afford to have the accusation that some of us, or one of us or two of us, committed this heinous crime."

"So there is a necessity to investigate and to try. The question is still how," Mr. Musa said.

He said the Arab League committee, to which he belongs, might hold talks on the sidelines of a Non-Aligned Movement foreign ministers meeting which starts on the Indonesian island of Bali on Thursday.

"I was of the opinion that the committee should meet perhaps this week, of course provided that the Libyans would have something new. But it seems that the Libyans are still considering various options," Mr. Musa said.

He said he did not believe the Libyans' position was totally inflexible. "You cannot remain static in the face of such a major crisis. You have got to be not only mobile but prolific in your proposals and ideas," Mr. Musa said.

Emirates tell Iran they united over island row

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) effectively told Tehran on Monday that it backed member-emirate Sharjah in its dispute with Iran over the small Gulf island of Abu Musa.

"Any agreements between one of the emirates and neighbouring states are deemed to be agreements between the UAE and those states," a spokesman said after an emergency meeting of the supreme council of the rulers of the seven UAE emirates.

The statement did not refer directly to Abu Musa where Iranian troops in March expelled about 60 workers who operated the vital power station, clinic and police post in a part of the island controlled by Sharjah under a 1971 agreement with Iran.

The UAE has not made any direct statements on the issue, even after a visit to Tehran by UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi late in April.

Gulf political sources said Mr. Nuaimi's meeting with Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was largely fruitless, with the Iranian leader signalling that he would prefer to deal directly with Sharjah over the Abu Musa dispute.

Iran and Sharjah agreed to share the island in November 1971, a month before the UAE was formed among the seven "Trucial States" in the lower Gulf that had until then enjoyed British protection.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, ruler of Abu Dhabi, called the rare supreme council meeting after a series of highly publicised visits to Sharjah last week to underline his support for the emirate.

Monday's meeting was attended by the ruler of Dubai and UAE Vice-President Sheikh

Maktoum Ben Rashid Al Maktoum, whose trading emirate is close commercial links with Iran.

The row has deepened suspicions of Iran's intentions on the Arab side of the waterway it carries two-thirds of the world trade in oil.

Iran's lobbying for a role in the security of the Gulf after Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf war has largely fallen on deaf ears despite its opposition to Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait.

The 1971 agreement between Iran and Sharjah, as published, the time, stated that neither recognised the other's claim to the strategic island close to the main Gulf shipping lanes.

But Sharjah agreed to allow Iran to maintain a garrison on the island in exchange for freedom to use the rest of the island. The two share revenues from Abu Musa's small offshore oilfields.

Iranian Foreign Minister A. Akbar Velayati said last month that foreigners expelled from Abu Musa had no right to land because the 1971 agreement barred third-country nationals from residing on the island.

The agreement makes no reference to third-country nationals to a time limit for the agreement as some reports from Tehran have suggested.

Since the dispute flared in March Tehran has declared the island a full province of Iran, rather than a district of the main land province of Bandar Abbas as it had previously.

Mr. Rafsanjani said during a visit to the island in February that it was part of the forward defences of Iran and his Vice-President Hassan Habibi said during a visit to neighbouring Qatar last week that Iran maintained its claim to Abu Musa.

Controversial militia boosts Kabul presence

KABUL (R) — Afghan militia generals sent thousands of soldiers into Kabul at the weekend, ignoring demands from many guerrilla commanders that the militia be expelled from the city, senior officers said on Monday.

At least 6,000 fighters entered the capital from northern Afghanistan at the weekend, a senior militia officer said, and more were coming on Monday.

However, a senior Mujahideen commander said he doubted the militia had been able to bring so many into Kabul.

The militia refuse to say how many of their widely-feared men they have deployed in and around the city in total.

The presence of the militia-men, who were the fighting spearhead of the old regime's resistance to the guerrillas until they switched side two months ago, has polarised the new Islamic government.

Radical guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has threatened to resume his attacks on Kabul unless the new government rids the capital of the militia

and agrees to his political demands.

But militia commanders see a reason to leave.

"Why should we leave? This is our homeland which we have been defending for 13 years," a senior officer said in Kabul.

Interim President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi said on Sunday he believed the militia would leave Kabul if asked but few share his optimism.

"I don't think they are going to leave voluntarily. There is potential for very real bloodshed," said a senior Asian diplomat.

The dispute underlines the ethnic divide that has opened up in the new government, a clash which Mr. Hekmatyar is using to bolster his position.

The militia are mostly minority Tajiks and Uzbeks from northern Afghanistan, while Mr. Hekmatyar comes from the majority Pashtuns who have ruled the nation for 200 years.

"He is trying to cash in on the Pashtun loyalty. This is a card that he is using very deftly," the diplomat said.

Rafsanjani camp wins over 200 of 270 Majlis seat

TEHRAN (AP) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani's loyalists have seized all 30 parliamentary seats in Tehran in national elections announced Monday, giving the so-called moderates seeking new links with the West an iron grip on the legislature.

With the final results in from second-round voting Friday, Mr. Rafsanjani's followers have won more than 200 of the 270 Majlis, or parliament, seats, decisively shattering the radicals' domina-

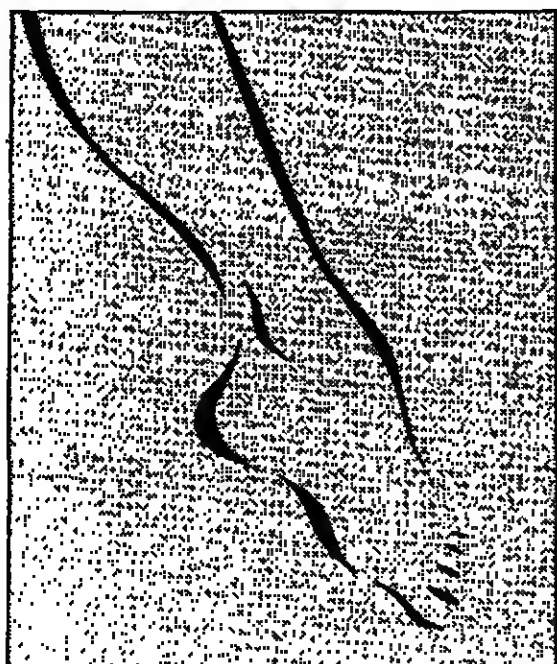
tion of the legislature.

The Interior Ministry, which oversaw the elections, said Monday that all 28 Tehran seats contested Friday were won by members of the Jame-e Rohaniy Mobaraz — the Society of Militant Clergymen — which is one of Mr. Rafsanjani's power bases.

The other two Tehran seats were won by followers of Mr. Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's secular pragmatists, in the first round of voting April 10.

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18:30 Les Tortues Ninja
19:00 Marc et Sophie
19:30 News in French
19:50 Vanities
20:30 News in Hebrew
21:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Comedy
21:50 Rich Tea and Sympathy
22:00 Oscar films: "Over the Moon"

PRAYER TIMES

06:24 Fajr
07:40 Sunrise (Sunrise) Doha
12:32 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:24 Maghreb
20:51 Isha

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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, with a slight rise in temperatures expected. Winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Mia./Max. temp. Amman 8/20

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Najmeh pharmacy 623672
Al Salama pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646945
St. Joseph pharmacy 637060

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 943402
Traffic Police 936390
Public Security Department 630521
Hotel Complaints 615801
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661646
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 6428146
Akilsh Maternity, J. Amn. 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palatine, Shmestani 6441714
Shmestani Hospital 659131
University Hospital 843545
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdal 66612737
Al-Ani, Abdal 6641646
Italian, Al-Mubajir 7710103

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05) 520055, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
06:30 Agaba (RJ)
08:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
09:55 Montreal, New York (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

14:10 Riyadh (SU)
20:35 Beirut (ME)
21:35 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Agaba (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:25 Brussels, London (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:50 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)
21:40 Dhahran (RJ)
21:50 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:15 Larnaca (RJ)
22:15 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:00 Beirut, Rome (AZ)
15:30 Riyadh (SU)
01:00 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple (red) 700/450
Banana 500/450
Banana (Mukhammar) 550/500
Beans 700/600
Cabbage 150/100
Carrot 160/120
Cauliflower 360/300
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 300/250
Eggplant 550/450
Garlic 1000/800
Lemon 260/200
Marrow (large) 260/200
Marrow (small) 300/250
Onion (dry) 160/100
Onion (green) 150/100
Orange 370/250
Pepper (hot) 570/400
Pepper (sweet) 250/200
Potato 420/380
Radish 150/100
Sage 600/500
Spinach 150/100
Tomato 750/600

Initial studies on exploitation of Dead Sea minerals finalised

SOUTHERN JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — Concerned government departments have finalised initial studies on a major industrial complex for the exploitation of Dead Sea minerals which is to be completed in the coming few years, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat.

The project, which is to be cost at least \$350 million, is bound to benefit the Southern Jordan Valley, offering job opportunities to the local residents, said the minister in a statement at a meeting with citizens in the South Jordan Valley region.

In addition to the industrial projects and the major highway linking Zarqa and Ghor Haditha in the south, the Jordan Valley region is going to witness a number of other development projects that would stimulate socio-economic activities, said Mr. Suheimat during an inspection tour of the region along with three other ministers.

Mr. Suheimat was addressing notables from the Southern Jordan Valley in the presence of Minister of Public Works Saad Hayel Al Srouf, Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti and Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh.

At the outset of the meeting, Karak Governor Eid Qatraneh outlined the main demands and needs of the local citizens, noting that they have been demanding a modernisation of the Karak-Ghor road and Al Karak-Qatraneh road, as well as a reorganisation

of land appropriation procedures. The governor said the local residents were all involved in agriculture and were demanding more water for irrigation.

The public works minister told the meeting that the government was keen on completing work on the Zarqa-Ghor Haditha road which is due to be finished in the coming year. He said that the Karak-Ghor road is also of vital importance to the farmers since it is the only link between the farmlands and the main markets. The minister noted that ministry teams were now involved in studies to find a substitute road to the existing one due to difficult terrain, noting that an allocation of JD 650,000 has been made for the substitute road.

Another JD 100,000 has been allocated for the Karak-Qatraneh road and the ministry is making studies on improving or opening agricultural roads in the area and repairing those that sustained damage during the past winter season, Mr. Srouf added.

The agriculture minister spoke about efforts being made to combat the whitefly pest that has been damaging crops in the Jordan Valley. He also spoke about nurseries which produce tree saplings to be distributed to farmers.

The next stop for the four ministers was at the Arab Potash Company, near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, where they were briefed by APC Director General Ali Ensour on production and the company's plans for expansion.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker is Monday briefed by visiting Vice President of the European Investment Bank Allen Prate (far right) and Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz (far left) on the fourth European Community-Jordan Protocol

Protocol to implement \$165 million in projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker was Monday briefed on the manner in which the fourth European Community (EC)-Jordan Protocol will be implemented between 1992 and 1996.

Financial assistance to Jordan under this protocol, totalling \$165 million, will mainly benefit projects in water, irrigation, industry, energy, agriculture and means of combating pollution to the environment.

The briefing was made by visiting Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Allen Prate and Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In response, the prime minister emphasised Jordan's determination to make the economic restructuring programme in the Kingdom succeed so as to give impetus to the process of development and progress.

Mr. Prate voiced EIB's satisfaction with current efforts on the part of the Jordanian government

towards further development in all fields.

The EIB Saturday advanced a loan totalling JD 2.58 million towards financing expansion of the Sahab Industrial Estate, about 20 kilometres south-east of Amman.

The loan, which carries a two per cent interest is provided for under the third EC-Jordan financial protocol.

Covering a total of 253 hectares of land, Sahab Industrial City is equipped with the infrastructure needed by present and future businesses as well as a waste water treatment plant from which clean water will be used for irrigation purposes.

The Sahab City contains some 240 enterprises from all sectors of the economy, together employing around 6,300 people.

The EIB loan will finance the third phase of an expansion project at the industrial city to absorb an additional 125 enterprises, expected to create 3,000 jobs.

Physicians continue strike in protest of accreditation denials

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of foreign-educated physicians continued a hunger strike/sit-in for the second day in a row in front of the Ministry of Health Monday to protest the continued denial of professional accreditation of some 250 Jordanian doctors.

The row, among the physicians and the Ministry of Education and the Jordanian Medical Board (JMB), has been brewing for months and was partially resolved when 350 of the original 600 physicians involved received accreditation six weeks ago.

But the physicians, who charge preferential treatment as well as the commercialisation of the medical institution as the prime factors for their non-accreditation, say that until their 250 remaining colleagues are accredited, they will remain camped out on government premises.

The mostly European-trained

physicians charged that the JMB feared an increase of doctors in Jordan because this would lower the service charge for medical treatment. They also charged that doctors trained in the U.S. receive preferential treatment.

"Jordanian-trained and U.S.-trained physicians get accreditation immediately, while we have to wait years sometimes," said Dr. Odeh, one of the protesters.

The "water only" hunger strike was adhered to by about 60 physicians who rotated with another 60 doctors beginning Sunday morning in the parking lot of the Ministry of Health in Jabal Hussein.

The Royal Palace and the

Prime Ministry had been informed of the situation, said cardiologist Haidar Madani, who is the spokesperson for the group.

"We have reason to believe that the government and the Royal Palace are aware and concerned about our situation," Dr. Madani told the Jordan Times. "Many of us who are out here on the hunger strike have received our accreditation but we believe that we must support our colleagues in this hour of need," Dr. Madani said.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Medical Board says that it cannot accredit every applicant it receives. While Dr. Ishak Maraqa, the head of the board, was not available for comment, sources close to him said that not all applicants could be accredited.

Dr. Madani was among those that received their accreditation six weeks ago. He was the official spokesperson for the group when their plight was presented to the

Lower House of Parliament and the government in March by Amman Deputy Mansour Murad.

The protesters, the vast majority of whom are specialists, argue that their applications to the board have not been rejected and as a result they cannot take legal action against the board.

"We can't take legal action against the board because they haven't denied our application," said Dr. Bahia, a West German-trained gynecologist. "They just leave us hanging in the air," she added.

With JMB officials still studying the cases and protesting doctors occupying the parking premises of the Ministry of Health, the conflict seems far from over.

As one doctor put it, "Who will guarantee that all the Jordanian medical students who are still studying abroad will not run into the same problem and end up out of work and with no accreditation?"

Applications for exchange offices now accepted by CBJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Monday began accepting applications from people wishing to open exchange offices in Jordan in accordance with the new law on money changers which was endorsed by a Royal Decree on May 9, 1992.

The announcement was made by Zayan Zawaneh, director of the Foreign Currency Control and Money Changers Department at the CBJ, who said that applications for licences are being received and studied, each on its own merit.

Mr. Zawaneh noted that according to law a partnership company opening an exchange office must have at least a JD 250,000 capital, a limited partnership company JD 500,000 and private shareholding company should have at least a JD 1 million dinar capital and that all partnership companies opening exchange offices should deposit with the CBJ 30 per cent of the total company's capital or JD 100,000 in bank guarantees to

ensure sound dealings.

The new law organises the work of money changers in the Kingdom in harmony with the general companies law and is bound to offer services to the national economy, said Mr. Zawaneh.

According to the new law, no one can operate as a money changer without a proper licence from the CBJ and only if the exchange office has been registered under the companies law. The law stipulates that whoever obtains a licence should start operations within six months time after approval by the CBJ.

The law prohibits the money changers changing the location of their business without prior approval from the CBJ.

The law also stipulates that money changers operating in Jordan will have to abide by the official exchange rates as issued by the CBJ and that each exchange office should submit to the CBJ, in three months time, its annual closing account.

What's in a name: Controversy subsides over Afghan Mujahedeen

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A public row between a Jordanian writer who equated the recent fighting between the Afghan Mujahedeen to a "dog race" and Islamists who rose up in arms in protest of the simile seemed to be subsiding Monday after the columnist published another article which was largely interpreted as an obvious conciliatory move towards the Islamists.

Dr. Fahed Fanek, who wrote the controversial column in the Al Rai, seemed to be retracting his original statement Sunday in order to avoid a direct conflict with the Islamists, who had strongly supported the Mujahedeen against the Soviet Union and the Najibullah regime in Kabul.

Although Dr. Fanek denied he was apologising for what he had written in the controversial article, he nevertheless conceded that his second column attempted to be more specific to avoid misinterpretation and to contribute to "clearing the air."

Informed sources had told the Jordan Times that a representative of the Afghan Mu-

jahedeen who is currently in Jordan had approached a lawyer here to file a lawsuit against Dr. Fanek. A column by the lawyer, Zubair Abul Ragheb, which appeared in Sunday's Al Rai daily, called out any possible legal action.

The lawyer, who is an Islamist, chastised Dr. Fanek for his comments and questioned his reasons for writing the column. Sources believe that the publishing of Mr. Abul Ragheb's column alongside Dr. Fanek's Sunday will contribute to minimising the friction that Dr. Fanek's article created.

Dr. Fanek, however, said he was equally "hurt" by the language in Mr. Abul Ragheb's column which he believed contained several accusations and insults to his person and said he may lodge a law suit against Mr. Abul Ragheb.

"I am hurt and I am considering to exercise my legal rights," Dr. Fanek said.

Dr. Fanek also dismissed the possibility of any lawsuit being brought against him because "they would have to prove that my article caused damage to the Afghan Mujahedeen and it didn't."

The controversy began when Dr. Fanek appeared to equate

the Afghan Mujahedeen with dogs in a column, the controversial columnist predicted that the fall of the Najibullah regime in Afghanistan would diminish the strategic importance of the Mujahedeen to the U.S. explicitly charging that the "militias" received their support, training, money and arms from the strongest country in the world (America). His final analysis was that a civil war will erupt in Afghanistan leading to its Lebanonisation.

However, the comment on the Afghan Mujahedeen that most angered supporters was: "Afghanistan will remain in the news for some time, and we will hear, read and see about the upcoming civil war... but all parties will lose even if they fought harder, and this race (among the different factions) will not produce martyrs, heroes or real Mujahedeen, because the problem with greyhound races is that even the winner of the race remains a dog despite its victory."

Dr. Fanek later explained that he used this expression because it was a well-known proverb but did not mean the literal meaning of the word.

His conciliatory column however only appeared after three critical responses that had been published in the paper, which is also being accused of being anti-Islamist by the Islamists. Dr. Fanek said he did not personally receive any feedback but was aware that the paper had received at least 23 letters attacking what writers called his "insinuations" and innuendos against Islamists.

Probably the most important response came from Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Hamzeh Mansour who said that Dr. Fanek misinformed and miscalculated in his column on the Afghan Mujahedeen. "Instead of presenting a bouquet of flowers from Amman at the victory celebrations of Afghanistan, he hit them with what was alien to Jordan, which calls for apology to those who have loved Amman and Jerusalem," Deputy Mansour said in reference to the Mujahedeen's pledge to liberate the occupied Palestinian territories from Israeli occupation.

"The Afghan Mujahedeen, are not dogs, Dr. Fanek," he wrote, it saddens me that these words are part of your language."



WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

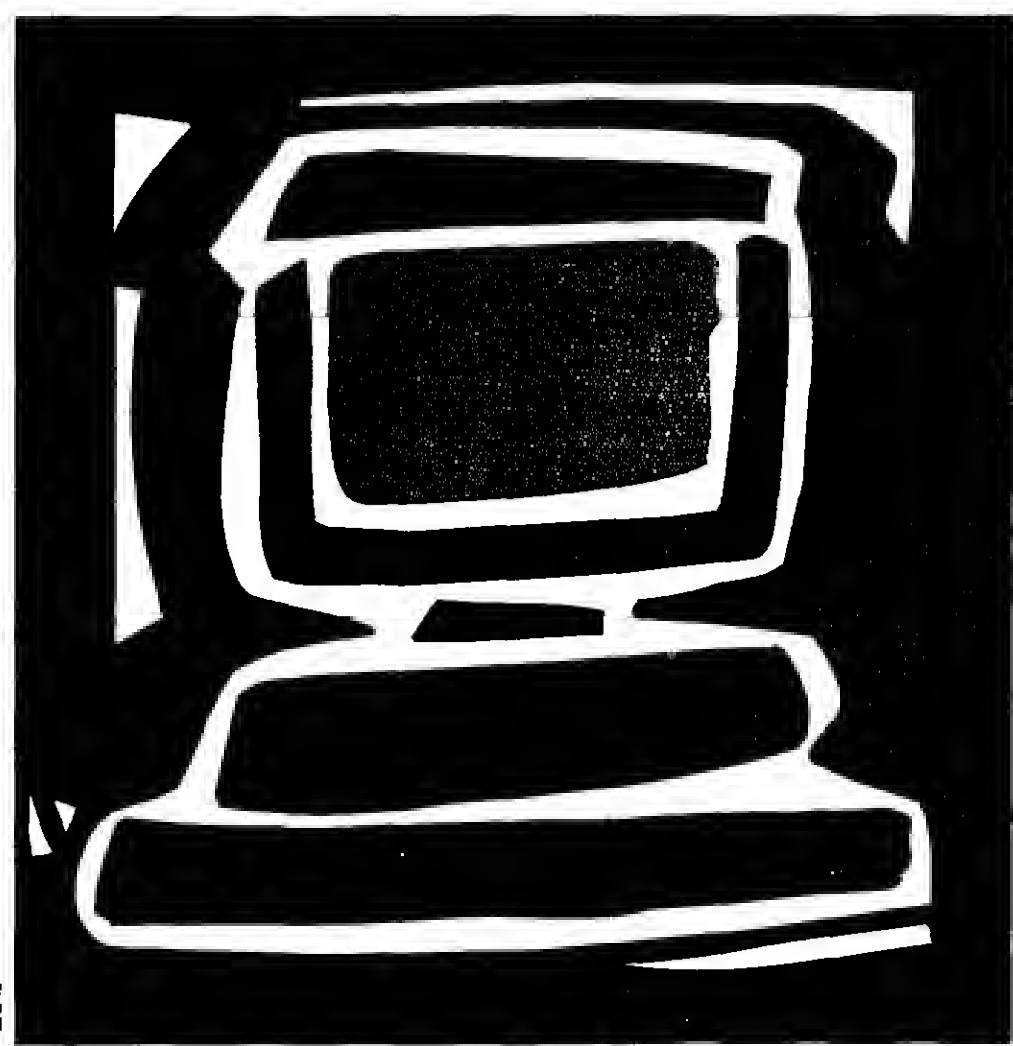
- ★ Exhibition of seven artists from the occupied territories — Tayseer Barakat, Suleiman Mansour, Nabil Anani, Vera Tamari, Jawad Al Malhi, Ya'coub Al Kurr and Khalil Rahab — at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hazem Al Bustani at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Amer Al Obaidi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition of Iraqi artist Ali Al Mandalawi's works, inspired by poems of the great Arab poet Abdul Wahab Al Bayati, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rida Hus Hus at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Lawleh.
- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Double Vision of Jordan" by Bernard Guillot and Jean-Philippe Reverdot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Science and Technology as Forerunners of Industrialisation" (organised by the Goethe Institute) at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

FACULTY HOLDS SCIENTIFIC DAY — The Faculty of Nursing at the University of Jordan Monday held its seventh Scientific Day to discuss general activities and development plans. Addressing the opening session, University President Fawzi Gharaibeh outlined the various endeavours of the Nursing Faculty and the cadres which it turns out to serve in the private and the public sectors. Dr. Wafiqah Abdul Rahim, the faculty dean, outlined the various activities carried out by the Faculty of Nursing, noting plans for developments and projects for serving the local communities in Jordan. The meeting discussed six working papers, one of which covered the condition and working lives of Jordanian nurses.

CONDOLENCES

The Friends of Archaeology Society offer their sincerest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of **Dr. Kenneth Russell** for his untimely passing from us. Dr. Russell was a friend and associate of the Friends of Archaeology of many years' standing. We will always remember him with great affection for his good humour, willing cooperation and unique insight that added a special dimension to Jordanian archaeology for all of us.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Raging conflicts and the new world order

IN A LOPSIDED manner the fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis over control of Nagorno-Karabakh is similar to the fighting between Serbs and Muslims over control in Bosnia. For whereas the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh constitute the majority of the population, in Bosnia, the majority of the population are Muslims. In both situations, however, there is the issue of self-determination pitted in contrast with minority rights. Both rights are well enshrined in the U.N. human rights instruments, and the reconciling of one with the other still eludes international jurists and human rights activists. What adds to the complexity of the intertwined issues is the subject of sovereignty. In the case of Nagorno-Karabakh, sovereignty rests with Azerbaijan which gained independence on the heels of the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Bosnia also sought and acquired independence in the aftermath of the disintegration of former Yugoslavia. These and similar ethnic and religious conflicts have become the trademark of the new international order. Against this backdrop, how to reconcile sovereignty rights with the right to self-determination on the one hand and the right of self-determination with the exercise of minority rights on the other hand need to be better articulated in view of the existing gaps and seemingly irreconcilable differences between them. Having triggered such vexing conflicts between various peoples and religions, the champions of the new order need to take up these subjects as a matter of high priority with a view to inject some coherence into the current body of customary international law on the subject. In this sense, the initiative taken up by Turkey calling for a U.N. Security Council meeting on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh offers a propitious occasion to address these complex disputes, especially after the fighting has escalated of late between the two sides in and around the city of Shusha. Over 1,500 people have been killed in that region and this fact makes the situation there the scene of the bloodiest of all ethnic conflicts inherited from the former Soviet Union. All concerned sides are therefore called upon to support this Turkish initiative. Hopefully the Security Council will establish a working group to discuss all the political and legal dimensions of the situation before the council members pronounce themselves on it. Once the Nagorno-Karabakh case has been dealt with thoroughly, the attention of the council must turn to Bosnia and other republics that broke away from former Yugoslavia in a bid to also inject some sense and legality into the various Yugoslav conflicts.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SINCE 1948 Jordan has been keen on playing its full role as guardian of the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and other parts of Palestine, undertaking the task of restoring and repairing any holy shrines whenever this was needed, regardless of the cost and the circumstances, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. The paper said that Jordan had shouldered this sacred responsibility and national duty ever since the Hashemites came to this part of the world, and the task was pursued under His Majesty King Hussein and his successive governments. The restoration of the Dome of the Rock, which is now being undertaken by a government-appointed committee, is a Hashemite responsibility of which the Royal family cannot dispose and in which they take deep pride, the paper said. It said that other Arabs and Muslims have shirked their duty and responsibility towards safeguarding the holy shrines in the Holy City, but the Hashemites spared no effort throughout the years in providing for the upkeep of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. So far, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has spent tens of millions of dinars on repairing and safeguarding the holy shrines in Jerusalem while the other Arabs and Muslims only looked and watched, the paper said. It said the Hashemites consider the task a religious and national duty, while others are preferring to issue propaganda statements in an attempt to outbid others or win Arab and Muslim peoples' favour by lip service alone. It said that the committee's work does not serve a certain leader or purpose, but it is rather dedicated to safeguarding one of the holiest places for Muslims.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily criticised Israel's stand with regard to the multilateral negotiations, noting that the Jewish state's adamant position would not have continued had it not been backed by the United States. The daily said that the United States had amassed conventional and nuclear weapons in Israel, prompting the Jewish state to refuse any discussions in the multilateral negotiations over arms reduction as Israel hopes to maintain its present military superiority over all the Arab states put together. Israel's refusal to take part in the working group which will discuss the refugees issues is quite known to all since it refuses to abide by the Geneva conventions and does not accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 194 which calls for the repatriation of all refugees or for their compensation for losing their homes and lands, the paper added. Israel wants to continue expanding in the Arab lands and therefore does not wish to see Arabs repatriated to their own homeland, the paper said. It said that the Europeans and the Americans who realise these facts should use all their influence and their pressure to change Israel's position and force it to comply with the requirements of peace and security.

The View From Fourth Circle

Intifadas and the quest for dignity, everywhere

By Rami G. Khouri

I happened to be in the United States two weeks ago when Los Angeles was engulfed in violence and flames, and was intrigued to watch the American people deal with their very serious problems of economic disparity, urban blight, and racial tensions. My first gut reaction to the violence and destruction in Los Angeles — at the human level — was empathy and understanding. Those American blacks, hispanics and whites who rioted and went on a rampage in Los Angeles were reacting with understandable rage at their difficult situation, at the margins of American society and virtually outside the formal economy.

One could not easily condone or justify the violence that took place — but one could understand it. A majority of American blacks, hispanics and poor whites have been slowly sinking into economic distress and political marginalisation for the last two decades. The traditional good life in the USA has become the preserve of an increasingly restricted circle of Anglo-Saxon whites and a small circle of minority families that has been able to break through the old barriers of race, education, and access to opportunity and capital.

The events in Los Angeles and some other U.S. cities were sparked by a racial event — the acquittal of the four white police officers accused of beating the black Rodney King — but the ensuing violence was not only racially motivated. It does not take long for a visitor to the United States to recognise that the major cleavage in that society is not racial, but economic. The number of poor whites living in economic distress is probably greater than the number of blacks.

More and more poor whites have no chance of even aspiring to achieve the American dream that used to be within the reach of most Americans as recently as three or four decades ago — a decent education, a secure and honourable job, a home, life in a comfortable neighbourhood, affordable access to health care and leisure activities, and the probability that one's children would enjoy the same good life. More and more American families suffer lower real living standards, homelessness, joblessness, reliance on government welfare or food assistance, and a life of fear in security-conscious homes and housing complexes.

In more and more middle class families, both white and black, mothers and fathers have to work in order to maintain living standards, which leads to a deterioration in the quality of family life. Families gradually splinter into a scramble for individual protection and accumulation of material needs. If you're a Michael Milken or an Ivan Boesky, and you can accumulate hundreds of millions of dollars with little real effort, society applauds you, and the Republican and Democratic Party chiefs court you. If you happen to be an ordinary working man or woman, you pay a heavy price for the wealth of the few.

As American society evolves into a faceless free market

economic machine that allows a minority to live in great comfort while the majority struggles against odds, social structures that once provided a base for decent life slowly fragment, leaving individuals to cope with life on their own. For more and more inner city blacks, hispanics, and whites, the comfort of the gang replaces the protection of the family, the pleasure of drugs replaces the emotional support of parents and peers, the income from crime replaces the monthly pay check from a stable job. A horrendous consequence of this trend towards individualism is a rise in problems related to drugs, crime, violence, educational deficiencies and psychological distress. For a majority of Americans, life has become increasingly pressured, and the future increasingly uncertain.

The anger and resentment that have built up in recent decades because of this reality of mass economic regression and social fragmentation exploded in Los Angeles in what an astute Indian friend of mine has correctly termed "an Afro-American intifada." The lack of dignity and the loss of hope that result from prolonged occupation (in Palestine) or prolonged social and economic regression (in the United States) cannot be contained forever. They must result in a mass human response, as they have done in the Palestinian intifada and the American intifada. The parallels are not totally identical, but the underlying causes of resentment and rage certainly are. Dehumanised people whose problems and inequities are not addressed will react in violent ways. If their problems have persisted from the mid-1960s, as they have in Palestine and central Los Angeles, then one should not expect more than one generation to pass without an explosion of some sort. What are people supposed to do? Applaud their dehumanisation and meekly watch it on television?

This is why I say my first reaction to the events in the USA was understanding and empathy. On the political level, however, the recent violence raises some more difficult issues, especially in view of the United States government's recent show of global moral one-upmanship as it seeks to promote democracy, oppose oppression, and protect minorities in other parts of the world. One wonders, for example, whether it is appropriate to suggest that a United Nations peace-keeping force be sent in to south-central Los Angeles? Is it useful to seek a United Nations Security Council resolution forbidding California police officers from driving their vehicles into poor urban neighbourhoods between the 34th and 33rd parallels? Is it useful to consider an international force of observers and relief agencies — perhaps as Operation Son of Comfort — to assure the protection of poor Americans in Los Angeles and other distressed cities? Should ten per cent of the income from American exports of expensive athletic shoes and government bonds be used by the United

Nations to feed poor people in south-central Los Angeles?

These questions are partly flippant, partly serious. They stem from the dominant perception in the Arab-Islamic World, and much of the Third World, that the United States hardly enjoys the stable domestic base from which it can presume to launch a presumptuous drive to reorder the world in its own image. We appreciate and perhaps even wish to emulate many of the fine principles that have always formed the core of American society. But we wish to do so in a manner that leads to societies whose overriding characteristic is personal and communal dignity grounded in national viability and social stability. If we are offered the twin models of Michael Milken and south-central Los Angeles — and this is more or less the polarisation that characterises American society today — our response is a polite and bemused "thanks, but no thanks."

We would not normally deem it appropriate to comment on domestic American affairs, or to presume to analyse their problems, were it not for the fact that we and our friends around the Third World continue to suffer the political and economic consequences of an American civilisation that must ravage the world in an increasingly unsuccessful attempt to assure its own living standards. The rising infant mortality rates in Iraq and south-central Los Angeles are not as distant politically as they are geographically. Political leaderships and corporate interests that try to live a good life on the back of the dignity of others, whether in their own country or half way around the world, will wake up one day and find their egregious morality rejected, burned, and thrown back in their face. This is one message from the streets of Los Angeles, and it is the same message that has come out of the streets of the Arab World for several decades: people will strive to live in freedom and dignity, or they will risk losing their lives striving to do so.

The American society's response to the problems of Los Angeles has been heartening and impressive. At its root lies a deep need to probe the reasons why people turned violent and destructive, in order to redress existing problems and make sure the same anger does not burst forth again in a decade or two. This American tendency to probe for causes of problems is impressive. It would be more credible if it were applied around the world as emphatically as it is applied in the USA itself. If social justice, economic equity, judicial fairness, and political dignity are requisites for stability and peace in the United States, they are equally valid around the world. It remains intriguing for us to watch the United States deal with its own problems on the basis of some very impressive criteria of political action, human development, and social equity, while it seems capable of ignoring those same noble criteria in its dealings with much of the rest of the world.

Inner city's anguish offers a reality check for the candidates

By Tom Raum
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — President Bush and expected Democratic rival Bill Clinton both toured Los Angeles riot areas this week and both came away condemning the violence, commiserating with its victims and urging more aggressive government help for America's inner cities.

The two visits were very different, just as the two men are different. One was a presidential trip with all the trappings of power and all the stagecraft. The other was the visit of a candidate with few of the resources of an incumbent.

NEWS ANALYSIS

But in many ways, the Bush and Clinton tours were alike. Both politicians touched the major bases — touring burned-out areas of the city to get a first-hand look at the devastation, even if Mr. Bush did most of his touring from the security of an armoured limousine. They both visited firehouses,

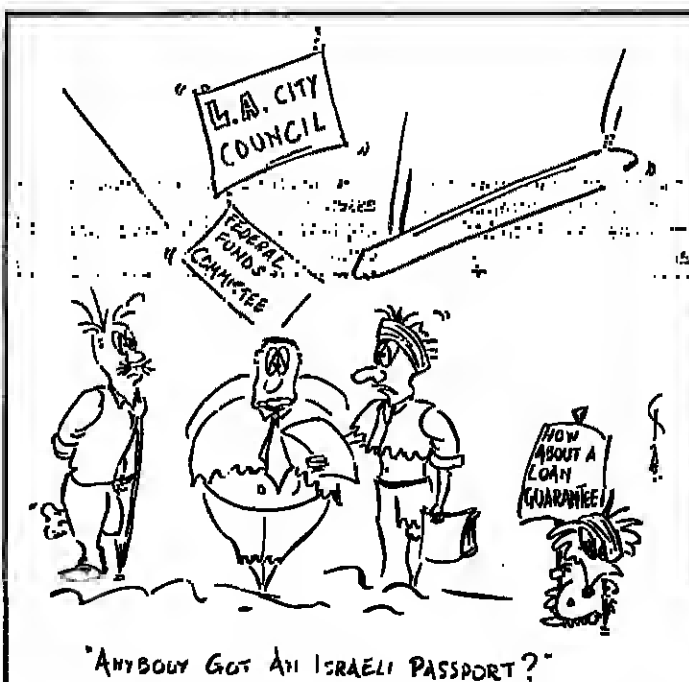
met with police and local officials, heard cries of hopelessness from black city dwellers and cries of fear and anger from Korean-Americans.

Both Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton were accused by critics of playing politics in coming to Los Angeles. And the promises for action of both were met with scepticism from residents who have long lived under the burdens of extreme poverty and widespread violence and prejudice.

The Los Angeles riots have already imprinted a mark on the public policy debate of this presidential election season. And plans on the inner city seem certain to be part of both the Democratic and Republican platforms this year.

As the president came to Los Angeles, his administration was seeking to blame the riots on the liberal policies of previous Democratic administrations.

He returned to Washington vowing to work with Congress on bipartisan solutions. "Casting blame gets us absolutely nowhere," he told a group of black residents at a youth club in south-



central Los Angeles.

And in a Saturday morning radio address Mr. Bush vowed to

fight hard for his plans to promote business development and jobs in the inner cities and help

public housing tenants buy their homes.

"I can already hear some of the critics out there. They'll say, well, you've proposed all this before. That's true, they're right. But now it's time to act on these proposals," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush spent less time than Mr. Clinton actually moving among the people affected by the riot. But a heavy dose of raw emotion still managed to get through the protective envelope in which Mr. Bush travels.

Mr. Bush heard real pain and anger. He heard it from a black woman who said she was afraid to leave her house or let her grandchildren play in a nearby park. And he heard it from a tearful Korean-American woman who told Mr. Bush everything her family had worked for decades for was gone — and now they can't make the mortgage or car payments.

And he heard it in the resigned voice of an unemployed black construction worker who said he'd been trying for over a year to get work but "it just won't hap-

pen" because "there are very few blacks able to get into that type of work."

Democratic Mayor Tom Bradley said Mr. Bush "seemed to get information that he was unaware of" during the visit and he believed Mr. Bush left the city with "a total commitment" to help.

Mr. Clinton, who was in Los Angeles on Monday, beating Mr. Bush by three days, left calling for the government to move more aggressively to confront the problems of the cities — including initiatives to encourage investment in the inner city.

Mr. Bush has been sounding some of the same themes.

Of course, there's no way that either Mr. Bush or Mr. Clinton can escape playing politics, or being accused of playing politics, as they press their rival inner-city plans.

"How many rebellions is it going to take, George Bush?" asked Rep. Maxine Waters, a Democrat whose district included the heaviest rioting. "You have to stop playing politics. You have to have domestic programmes. Where is the peace dividend?"

Britain's Labour Party faces reform or obscurity

By Steve Pagani
Reuters

LONDON — Britain's demoralised Labour Party, which has lost its fourth successive election since 1979, may have to bury socialism as its only hope of ever regaining power. Some political pundits have penned obituaries for Britain's socialist movement following Labour's election defeat last month at the hands of Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives.

"Socialism RIP (rest in peace)," wrote the Sunday Times newspaper. "Any party determined to cling to its socialist traditions is heading for the history books."

As in many other countries in the 1990s, socialism appears to be in retreat in Britain, which led the world into the industrial revolution and was a cradle of socialist ideals.

Some political analysts say that if Labour cannot win an election



Neil Kinnock

in the pit of a recession with unemployment rising above 2.6 million, it never will.

They say the party needs a new vision of how to translate the ideas that gave birth to socialism into a compelling political programme. They add it might have to consider a realignment of the left in British politics if it is to pose any future challenge to the Conservatives.

Some suggest an electoral pact between Labour and the centrist Liberal Democrats.

"An electoral pact would be a sensible move forward," Vernon Bogdanor, reader in government at Oxford University, said.

Labour is now embroiled in a leadership contest. Neil Kinnock, 50, who dragged the party towards the centre of the political spectrum after he became leader in 1983, announced he was quitting after the April 9 electoral defeat.

Mr. Kinnock had tried to make Labour attractive to voters in a new Britain where the middle



John Major

classes have burgeoned and the unskilled, unionised working class — its traditional stronghold — has dwindled along with the decline of the old 19th century smokestack industries.

Mr. Kinnock purged left-wing extremists, ditched unilateral nuclear disarmament, backed the European Community and acknowledged the primacy of a market economy.

But polls suggest that middle-class voters were still frightened off — this time by plans, in line with the socialist goal of redistributing wealth, to levy higher taxes on the better-off.

Finance spokesman John Smith, architect of the tax proposals, however, is front-runner to succeed Mr. Kinnock in the leadership vote on July 18.

Tom Nossiter, professor of government at the London

School of Economics, said Labour could find it harder to win the next election, due within five years, if its policies did not change.

The Conservatives regained office with a much-reduced majority of 21 at the bottom of the business cycle, but Mr. Nossiter said the economy was likely to be in much better shape next time around.

"I was asked recently to predict the result of the next election and I said the Tories would get back with a majority of about 60," he said.

Recent elections in Europe have shown a drop in support for Socialist or Social Democratic parties.

"What prevents the majority of European electorates voting for socialist parties seems to be the fact that they are socialists. But there seems to be a vast yearning for an effective party standing for equality and change," the Independent newspaper said.

"What Labour needs is a new vision and it must distance itself from the trade unions," Mr. Nossiter said.

The Labour Party was created at the end of the 19th century out of an alliance between reformist Christians, socialist intellectuals and the trade unions, which remain its paymasters.

Ironically, its arch-foe Margaret Thatcher may have done Labour a favour by backing away at the unions' considerable powers with anti-union legislation during the 1980s when she was prime minister.

Union leaders of the 1990s are more pragmatic and some argue they should now give up their block votes in Labour Party leadership elections and policy-making.

"The trade union movement

gave it life but it has matured and developed as a political party during the course of the 20th century," says Bill Jordan, president of Britain's second biggest union, the amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union.

In a recent speech he went as far as to urge Labour to drop a founding clause of its 1918 constitution which provides for

"common ownership of the means of production."

"The world is moving into a post-socialist era... and Britain is in the vanguard of that movement," the Sunday Times said.

"Only a non-socialist but preferably radical, alliance of left and centre left can beat the Tories in the post-socialist world."

LETTERS

A call in the wild

To the Editor:

As a law-abiding citizen, I found myself in a terrible bind last week when the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) decided to sever my telephone line through no fault of mine.

I believe that the TCC, which makes quite a good deal of money off our backs, should show more professionalism and responsibility before taking steps to "punish" those citizens who pay their bills on time. If following the labour day weekend the corporation cared to coordinate better with the banks where we pay our dues, a telephone line mine would not have been cut off costing me and my business lots of money and physical and psychological hardships. If the TCC really cared about putting its house in order it would have (1) postponed cutting lines till Sunday instead of Saturday, which was a public holiday and (2) it would employ people who are more responsible than the official who took my complaint only to tell me angrily that I would be reconnected when they would please to do so and that it was none of my business. Well, it is not my business to reconnect lines, but meanwhile my business suffered and all because of incompetence. It was a sad state of affairs. And what was even sadder was that I could not call somebody to complain about it.

Saliba Khoury,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Sharif Zeid: Democracy on course

(Continued from page 1)

help, but we have to depend on ourselves to restore our rights," he said, without elaborating on the course the negotiations have taken so far.

The prime minister discussed with the editors pressing issues of concern to the citizen, ranging from the government's efforts to combat crime to reducing unemployment in the country.

"The recent multiple murder in Jabal Hussein has been particularly troubling to all of us, and we are doing everything in our power to fight crime in the country," he said. "Democracy, openness and freedoms do not mean insecurity for the citizen and the state," he added.

"You only have to look at recent events in the U.S. (riots in Los Angeles and other American cities) to see how even the most democratic societies cannot tolerate crime and lawlessness."

Sharif Zeid spoke at length about the status of the Jordanian economy. "Our economy has achieved some very positive improvements in 1991 despite the burdens and the adverse consequences resulting from the Gulf crisis," Sharif Zeid said. "Progress was particularly achieved in the financial and monetary sectors which have recently improved despite setbacks in the tourism, transport and industrial sectors."

"Improvement in these areas were felt in the first quarter of 1992 as evidenced by economic indicators," said the prime minister.

"In the financial sector, the government was able to manage matters that led to enhancing revenues and controlling expenditure, which has resulted in narrowing the deficit gap in the 1991 fiscal to nearly JD 247.8 million, or nearly 17.7 per cent in terms of the gross domestic product (GDP)."

Sharif Zeid said he expected the deficit in GDP terms to drop to around 13 per cent by the end of 1992 — a target far exceeding the objectives planned in the economic adjustment programme (EAP).

"In the monetary field, Jordan was able to rebuild its foreign currency reserves to a net JD 552 million by the end of 1991, against JD 147 million at the end of 1990, an increase of nearly 279 per cent," he said.

The prime minister noted that the improvement continued, with the result that the net foreign currency exchange reserves at the Central Bank reached JD 623 million by the end of the first

quarter of 1992, registering an increase of nearly 12 per cent over the end of 1991 figure.

Referring to the balance of payments, he said that initial indicators reveal an improvement in this balance over the 1991 figures. Expectations for 1992 were even better than plans targeted by the economic adjustment programme, he noted.

"The 'current account' deficit in the 1991 budget amounted to \$712 million or 17.3 per cent of the GDP against \$902 million or 21.2 per cent of GDP as envisaged by the economic adjustment programme," the prime minister said, adding that a further narrowing of the budget deficit by a 2.5 per cent of GDP was expected in 1992.

With reference to the volume of GDP at current 1991 prices, he said, GDP reached JD 2,805.5 million against JD 2,618.4 million in 1990, registering an increase of around 7.1 per cent, and resulting in real-term growth of nearly 0.5 per cent.

The prime minister expected the GDP in 1992 at current prices to reach JD 3,048.2 million, registering an increase by about 8.7 per cent over the 1991 figures, an increase of 2.6 per cent in real terms.

Referring to the ceiling imposed on bank credit facilities, the prime minister noted that the ceiling for government borrowing from local banks in 1992 has been fixed at JD 95 million in accordance with the guidelines stipulated in the economic adjustment programme.

He said the ceiling was fixed with a view to opening the way for an increase in private sector credit and investments.

Initial indications about the government's performance in the first quarter of this year show that no government borrowing was made, Sharif Zeid pointed out.

As to the Amman Financial Market, the prime minister said that it witnessed an exceptionally high activity in the first quarter of 1992, noting that the total volume of trading reached nearly JD 175 million compared with JD 31 million in the first quarter of 1991, an increase of nearly 465 per cent.

The prime minister noted that the total number of traded shares in the first quarter of this year was worth JD 83 million, against JD 14 million in the same period of 1991, registering an increase of about 493 per cent.

The prime minister also strongly denied that there is any intention to lower the Jordanian dinar. "This is absolutely out of the question," he stressed.

Mideast economic talks begin

(Continued from page 1)

wards regional economic cooperation, then "certainly the community can provide finances and means of support." He did not elaborate.

The official, who spoke in exchange for anonymity, said Japan was expected to make a similar gesture to foster progress at the negotiating table through financial incentives.

A Jordanian and a Palestinian delegation including three members from outside the occupied territories were the only parties present from the nations in the direct peace talks.

A European Commission spokesman cautioned against dramatising Israel's absence from the economic talks, but recalled the EC's view that deepening of com-

munity ties with Israel was closely linked to progress in the peace process.

The European Commission's director-general for north-south relations, Juan Prat, spoke of broad possibilities for establishing a free trade zone and other initiatives to promote labour and capital mobility and to boost investment.

The Brussels talks were attended by EC and other European countries, Arab states, the Jordan and Palestinian delegations, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Japan, the United States and Canada.

A spokesman for the Palestinians at the Brussels talks Youssef Sayegh, an economist, was scheduled to lead his group, but this could change.

King reaffirms commitment

(Continued from page 1)

this direction on the part of others but rather a continued commitment and duty.

The King noted that the committee in charge of the project had been making plans towards the restoration of the Dome of the Rock and working relentlessly towards the implementation of the project.

King Hussein said he hoped that the restoration work will be completed as soon as possible. "We as Hashemites from the Al Al Beit thank God for honouring us to contribute with you towards fulfilling this duty towards our shrines that belong to the Muslims and the Arabs — those who believe in one God," the King said.

He voiced thanks to the audience for allowing him the chance for the meeting in a manner that reflects the unity of the one nation which is confident of the restoration of legitimate rights to their lawful owners in Jerusalem and in Palestine.

The King asked that his feelings and affection and those of Jordanians be conveyed to all Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Earlier Monday King Hussein announced that he was donating a sum of \$8,249,000 to help cover the cost of restoring the Dome of the Rock and said in a message to the committee in charge of the project that it was a personal donation from him and the Hashemite family.

In a letter to Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib, the committee's chairman, King Hussein voiced deep appreciation of the work undertaken by the committee members to restore the Dome of the Rock Mosque.

"I was delighted to receive you at the Royal Court, which will remain open for all Jordanians, and I took pride in your efforts to safeguard the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem," the King said in the message. "Safeguarding the holy places is our duty stemming from an Islamic and pan-Arab principle and the firm stand of the Hashemite family, which shouldered this noble and great mission. It is a duty which we have never shirked," the King said.

"What has been achieved in the course of restoring the Dome of the Rock has given us satisfaction and pride," the King said. "In order to finalise studies and to help you proceed with tenders related to the project I am pleased to inform you of our personal donation to this great work in my name and on behalf of the Hashemite family that has carried the mission of Al Al Beit," the King said.

"I have learnt from you that all that you have collected for the work so far does not exceed \$1,751,825, and therefore I am adding a donation of \$8,249,000 towards completing this duty in a manner which would satisfy all of us — Arabs and Muslims — and manifest our commitment towards safeguarding Islamic holy places in Jerusalem," the King said.

King Hussein met the committee at the Royal Court Sunday and heard a briefing on the steps taken to carry out the restoration work estimated to cost JD 10 million. The committee chairman said five international firms had been pre-qualified for the project and the bids were expected to be examined and evaluated by June 16 at the latest.

The committee started its meetings Saturday in order to complete the final steps before the work can start.

Press Association in disarray

(Continued from page 1)

affected the morals of the journalists at large and contributed even more to depressing their status in general and the ineffectiveness of their association in particular," said one member.

Although many journalists within and outside the association concede that the state of affairs within the association is also a reflection of their situation in their jobs and the "archaic mentality" in general, they add that change could also be brought through a more effective association.

Some of the journalists and resigned members complain of several issues on which little or no action was taken by the current committee. These problems include lack of funds, inability to defend members of the press, interference from the privately-owned newspapers, non-democratic practices, personal feuds and inaction on relocating the association's headquarters to better premises.

Specific financial problems include a medical insurance debt of JD 33,000 which has led to pharmacies and hospitals refusing credit to journalists using the association's insurance. The resigned members also cite the story of a pledge of one per cent of the newspapers' profits which are still in dispute and have not been paid to the association yet. A project to set up newstands managed by the association, although approved by the Greater Amman Municipality, has not been acted upon by the committee.

Other complaints include the political ineffectiveness of the association on the local scene and its failure to utilise the democratic changes in the Kingdom while other more

science-oriented associations had made strides in this area.

Although these problems in particular have been a large part of the association's predicament for many years, members now say they have had enough and that they want to work on refining and strengthening body of the association and protecting its members.

The resigned members now are calling for the resignation of the whole committee — the president and three employees of the government-owned Petra news agency remain in the panel — and early elections.

A meeting of the general assembly Sunday led to the appointment of a five-member committee charged with trying to mend the situation between the president and the estranged members, but all but one member of that committee have reached the conclusion that the differences cannot be reconciled, sources said.

Other sources told the Jordan Times that Mr. Khreisat had obtained legal advice which would allow him to appoint two members from the runner-ups to the elections last year so that he would still have a majority to run the affairs of the association.

But opponents of Mr. Khreisat's continued presence in his post say they have also obtained several legal translations of the association's law which would erase Mr. Khreisat's argument and that they would be willing to go to court over this issue.

By Monday evening, efforts continued to convince the remaining members to resign and allow for early elections while Mr. Khreisat, who declined comment on the developments of this issue, appeared optimistic that the issue would be solved soon.

Regional economic outlook bleak

(Continued from page 1)

Yemen, according to the survey. Owing to highly subsidised basic goods and services, cautious monetary policies as well as stable exchange rates, inflation in the GCC countries remained fairly modest over the past two years.

Huge amounts to finance the Gulf war and its aftermath have "led to budget deficits in countries that used to always have budget surpluses," Dr. Abdul Jaber said.

Meanwhile, oil production dropped from 14.3 million barrels a day in 1990 to 13.8 in 1991, the survey said.

Consequently, oil revenues in the region decreased to an estimated \$75.6 billion, compared with \$83.7 billion in 1990.

Foreign reserves of the ESCWA region countries dropped from \$35.6 billion in 1989 to \$31.4 billion in 1990," according to the survey, which anticipates a further drop in 1991.

Dr. Abdul Jaber cited the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations as the major element that will affect the future stability and the political and economic outlook in the region.

He said there is currently a proposal to set up a regional development and reconstruction bank, with an estimated budget of \$10 billion.

However, he said, the project needs further feasibility studies before it materialises.

Rabin to cut 'political' settlements

(Continued from page 1)

in Jerusalem and on the "confrontation lines" he defined as the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley in the West Bank.

A newspaper poll last Friday said that in the elections Labour would win 46 seats in the 120-seat parliament, against 31 for Likud.

but it was not clear which would have the better chance of forming a majority coalition with smaller parties.

Pollsters say Mr. Rabin, portraying himself as no less a hard-liner on security than Mr. Shamir, has the best chance of leading Labour to victory in 15 years of Likud rule.

Israeli units accused of 'executions'

(Continued from page 1)

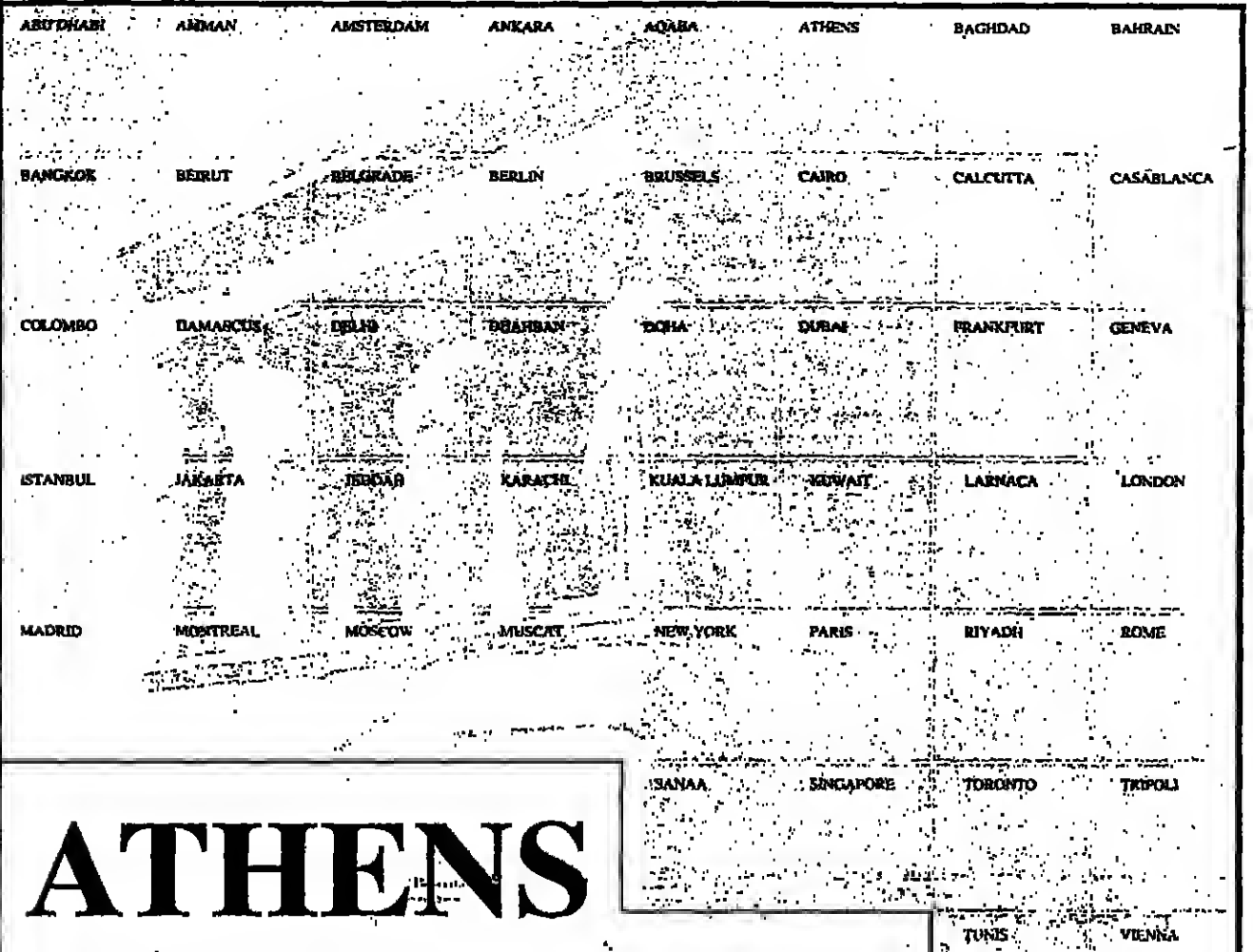
cold blood.

Protest at Bir Zeit

Palestinian students at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University demonstrated on campus on Monday against Israeli army pre-

sence which they said was making attending school difficult.

Israel allowed Bir Zeit University to resume regular studies at the end of last month, more than four years after the authorities closed it claiming it was a centre for Palestinian nationalism.



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Spanish, German leagues slug it out to bitter end

LONDON (R) — While Italy's A.C. Milan can now relax with the league crown safe in their possession, the Spanish and German contenders must slug it out to the bitter end.

Real Madrid's surprise 1-0 defeat against Real Oviedo Saturday leaves the championship wide open and rivals Atletico Madrid and Barcelona once again snapping at their heels.

With four games left, Madrid lead by just one point. Atletico have 48 and Barcelona 47. On Sunday, Barcelona and Atletico narrowed the gap when Barcelona beat lowly Cadiz 2-0 and Atletico won 2-1 against Sporting Gijon.

After recently accusing his players of throwing in the towel on the league title, Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff brimmed with enthusiasm after Sunday's match.

"It was an important win that inspired us. The league title is within our reach," Cruyff beamed.

Atletico's Portuguese striker and captain Paulo Futre offered a more subdued view of his team's match.

"It cost us a lot to win. We can be happy with the result but not the game," Futre said.

Atletico felt the absence of German defender Bernd Schuster, suspended for one game for getting too many yellow cards.

Real Madrid coach Leo Beenhakker put the defeat down to the team's spiritless performance.

"We didn't look like champions," he admitted.

In Germany, the tightest Bundesliga title race in years will be decided Saturday when three teams tied at 50 points each play away.

Eintracht Frankfurt, on top by virtue of their superior goal difference, have the easiest task at relegation-haunted Hansa Rostock and must fancy their chances to win their first championship since 1959.

After a weekend 2-2 draw against European Cup Winner's Cup champions Werder Bremen, Eintracht coach Dragoslav Stepanovic was philosophical:

European Soccer

"Even days to the Rostock game is enough to get us back on track. The best thing about the draw is that the others (VFB Stuttgart) drew and we still have it in our own hands to become champions," he said.

Second-placed VFB Stuttgart must face tough Bayer Leverkusen on May 16 after a disappointing 1-1 home draw against lowly Wattenscheid.

Borussia Dortmund, back in the league race after a convincing 3-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen, played Saturday to local rivals Duisburg.

"We obviously relish our role in pursuit," Dortmund's coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said.

AC Milan won honours two weeks before the end of the season with a 1-1 draw away to Napoli Sunday which guaranteed them their 12th Italian League title.

They were never in trouble against Napoli and could claim

they deserved to win a game in which Dutchman Frank Rijkaard missed a clear chance in the ninth minute, while his compatriot Marco Van Basten had a rare from the penalty spot in the second half when his kick was brilliantly saved by former Milan goalkeeper Giovanni Galli.

After watching the game on television, AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi said his team's new aim was to finish the season unbeaten.

Rijkaard who scored Milan's goal said: "We've won a lot of cups, but I have to say that the taste of a championship success is the best of all. Nothing's better."

Rijkaard's compatriot Marco Van Basten, who played against Napoli despite pain in a troublesome ankle, said after the game that he would travel to the Netherlands this week to have the ankle examined.

Van Basten may require an operation on the ankle but on Sunday he suggested that the operation would be delayed until after he had played for reigning champions the Netherlands in next month's European Championship finals in Sweden.

While Milan were opening 42 bottles of champagne in their Naples dressing room in celebration, local rivals Internazionale were experiencing another upset in a wretched season, losing 2-0 at home to relegation-bound Cremonese.

Inter, however, remain in contention with Juventus, Parma, Napoli, Torino, AS Roma and Sampdoria for a UEFA cup place next season.

Platini appeals for return to calm

PARIS (R) — National team boss Michel Platini appealed for a return to calm in French soccer Monday after the furore over last week's Corsica Stadium disaster threatened his team's preparations for the European Championship.

Platini's call, in an interview with the sports daily L'Equipe, followed a week of ructions with recriminations flying, freely and the cancellation of the French Cup final.

"Thirteen people died when a stand collapsed before the cup semifinal between Bastia and Marseille last Tuesday."

"There is something which really gets on my nerves," Platini said. "The people who argue that the controversy over this is obscene are the very ones who are conducting it."

Amid the upheavals, Platini is without the bulk of his squad for next month's tournament in Sweden.

Sweden though team preparations started in Clairefontaine, just outside Paris, last Wednesday.

Marseille and Monaco players, due to meet in the cup final which was first put back from Sunday to Tuesday then abandoned, were finally expected to join the squad Tuesday.

The match was called off because of the stadium tragedy. Bastia withdrew from the competition and Marseille then refused a French Football Federation decision that they should meet Monaco in the final.

Arguments have raged daily in the aftermath of the tragedy, inviting the suspicion that the whole concept of the notion that the show must go on has been replaced by the idea that the charade must go on.

Platini, who was present as a player in Brussels at the 1985 Heysel disaster when 39 died

because of rioting before the Liverpool-Juventus European Cup final, said:

"Not to play the final is fine. To play and finish the cup, as they did in England after a certain delay following the Sheffield Drama (when 95 were killed in 1989) is also fine."

"But all these reactions we are having now I heard before in 1985. It's high time now to stop all this. It's not important to talk about this anymore."

Platini said he found it strange that so-called "great thinkers" were attaching more importance to the Corsican incident than to the Los Angeles riots "which pose real social problems like hate and race."

"At Furiani (Bastia's stadium), there was an accident. It has nothing to do with Heysel," he said. "Let's find out who was responsible, take measures to prevent such a tragedy happening again, respect those who are suffering and stop getting mixed up in it all."

Platini said he expected the atmosphere in the team camp to be subdued for a while. "I don't know how the players are feeling, especially the Marseille ones."

"But we will try to prepare calmly for Sweden. We need to... And then, in time, it will pass. I am well placed to know that after such events, life continues."

Depleted Hungary, England meet in soccer friendly

BUDAPEST (R) — Both the England and Hungary soccer managers are being forced to juggle their squads to produce teams for Tuesday's friendly international, after club commitments and injuries have robbed them of key players.

Latest on England manager Graham Taylor's absentee list are Liverpool's Rob Jones and Mark Wright, staying behind to celebrate their club's F.A. Cup victory at the weekend.

Arsenal's David Rocastle has dropped out with gastro-enteritis, while Tony Cotton has a shoulder injury.

Glasgow Rangers' Gary Stevens is set to replace Jones in the line-up for England's penultimate warm-up game before their bid for the European Championship in Sweden next month.

If Stevens does well, 20-year-old Jones could find himself out of the team for the last friendly against Brazil later this month and without a ticket to Stockholm.

Hungary, who are being offered their biggest ever win bonus of 100,000 forints (\$1,250) each, also have problems.

Lajos Detari of Bologna who had been cast in a free-wheeling midfield role has withdrawn through injury and his replacement Imre Fodor, inspiration of Ferencvaros' League title challenge, has also pulled out.

Another blow has been the injury of 'keeper Zoltan Petry. Jenei intended to call Him Petry in place of Istvan Brockhauser because of his skill with the high ball.

Manager Imre Jenei described England's style as physical, predictable and lacking in invention, but admitted "what they do they do well."

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Gary Lineker scored on that occasion and 19 games and only one defeat later, the England marksman has the chance to equal Bobby Charlton's record of 49 goals for the international side.

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Italy gains first finals victory in America's Cup

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Il Moro Di Venezia made history for its country and the America's Cup, posting Italy's first finals victory with the closest finish in any finals race.

Outstanding crew work, masterminded by skipper Paul Cayard, earned Italy a three-second win over Americas Sunday to tie the best-of-series at 1-1. The third race is scheduled for Tuesday.

"It was a great race," said Cayard, a San Francisco native. "It's been a long time in the America's Cup since we've had a race like that."

The quick thinking of Il Moro's crew, an asset throughout the race against a seemingly faster boat, was most valuable as both boats sprinted to the finish in the final seconds.

America3 (America Cubed) had cut away at Il Moro's 31-second lead after the seventh leg of the eight-leg race and seemed to be gaining as both boats approached the finish line on the downwind leg.

With the boats sailing side-by-side and neck-and-neck, Il Moro's crew eased out on the genacker, the sail in front of the boat, allowing it to billow across the line before any part of America3 crossed.

After the race, America3 flew a protest flag over the issue of which part of a boat must cross for it to finish. But the U.S. boat declined to file an official protest.

The previous closest finish in a cup finals race was 26 seconds in a race between Weatherly of the United States and Gretel of Australia on Sept. 22, 1962. In one race during this year's challenger finals, Il Moro beat New Zealand by one second.

Il Moro's victory was Italy's first in its first finals appearance since it began battling for the 141-year-old prize in 1983.

Its superior crew work produced a 43-second lead after the first leg and helped it overcome gains the U.S. boat made during the second and seventh legs of the 20.03-mile (32-kilometre) course off Point Loma.

"America3's not a slow boat," Cayard said. "I felt like we gave them some pretty hard shots ... and they hung tough behind us, and it looks like it's going to be a good week, a good, tough week."

The race was sailed in moderate winds of 6 to 10 knots from the south. Il Moro finished in 2 hours, 46 minutes, 16 seconds.

The dash to the wire was a stirring finish to a parade through the Pacific that Il Moro had led since the midway point of the 3.25-mile (5.22-kilometre) first leg, into the wind.

America3 cut the lead to 13 seconds after the sixth leg. But America3 primary helmsman Buddy Melges tacked, a zig-zag manoeuvre, near the end of that upwind leg when his boat wasn't at full speed and lost ground.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Washington wins clay court title

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (R) — Malivi Washington breezed through two matches Sunday to win the rain-marred U.S. Clay Court Tennis Championships for his second title of the year. Washington, ranked 31st in the world, and seeded fourth here, eliminated fellow-American Jeff Tarango 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals earlier Sunday and then came back to walk through Switzerland's Claudio Mezzadri 6-3, 6-3 to win the tournament. "I guess I was fortunate that all my matches were shorter," said Washington, who completed a rain-delayed set Saturday and then played a complete match later in the day. Mezzadri, who also had to play his semifinal Sunday, played four matches in two days. "I don't think it was because I was tired that I lost the match," said Mezzadri, who reached the finals by beating Brazil's Luiz Mattar 6-3, 3-6, 7-5. But Washington seemed fresher and certainly was more comfortable on the court. Mezzadri had not played or practised on the stadium court all week because of the rain that interrupted play several times.

Strong field entered in Italian Open

ROME (AP) — Despite a last-minute pullout by Boris Becker, the men's edition of the Italian Open starts Monday with its strongest field in recent memory. Organisers said Becker, who had been seeded No. 3, informed them he had pulled his right hamstring during the tournament in Hamburg. Barring any further defections, the tournament still counts 12 of the top 15 players in the world, led by No. 1 Jim Courier of the United States. Courier was not scheduled to play Monday, but when he takes the court at the Foro Italico he will find himself facing a tough first-round opponent, Thomas Muster of Austria. Muster is a clay court specialist who won the Italian Open two years ago and the recent tournament in Monte Carlo. Other top seeds include No. 2 Pete Sampras of the United States, No. 4 Michael Stich of Germany, No. 5 Michael Chang of the United States, No. 6 Guy Forget of France and No. 7 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

Chinese divers sweep titles

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — Gao Min won the 3-metre springboard championship as Chinese divers swept the titles at the Alamo international, a warmup for the summer Olympics. Gao held a slim 1.56-point lead heading into the 10th and final dive. She finished at 536.10, while Kiong Ni's near-flawless execution on his eighth dive (94.05 points) clinched the men's platform title. Gao, the 1988 Olympic 3-metre gold medalist and the only woman to break the 600-point barrier at a springboard competition, outpointed Russian rival Irina Lasbko, who had 527.67. Lashko won the event the previous two years. Gao's teammate, Tan Shuping, won the bronze at 510.81. American Julie Farrell-Ovenhouse placed fourth with 490.80. "My last dive had a greater degree of difficulty than (Lashko)," said Gao, who has not lost a 3-metre competition since 1988. "I knew if I did it well, I would win." Despite recent shoulder problems, Gao remains a solid favourite to repeat as gold medalist at this summer's Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Briton retains overall lead in Du Pont

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania (R) — Rolf Aldag of Germany won the fourth stage and Dave Mann of Britain retained his narrow overall lead in the Tour Du Pont cycle race. Aldag, 23, a second-year professional, claimed the 250-kilometre (149.3-mile) Pocono Mountains to Hershey, Pennsylvania, road race with a time of six hours, 20 minutes and 47 seconds. Compatriot Peter Hille, who was given for a different international trade team, was second and won the same finishing time as the 18th and 67th finishers. American Thomas Craven was third over the countryside course through northeastern Pennsylvania. Mann, who assumed the race leadership after winning the second stage individual time trial last Friday night, finished 25th but still leads teammate Stephen Swart of New Zealand by 74 seconds. American Greg Lemond, the three-time Tour De France winner, was 10th and remains third overall, 12 seconds behind Mann.

Former IOC director Takeda dies at 83

TOKYO (R) — Tsuneyoshi Takeda, a former director of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), died of heart failure Monday aged 83. A Japan Olympic Committee (JOC) official said. The official said Mr. Takeda, whose mother Princess Tsune was the sixth daughter of Emperor Meiji, had devoted himself to promoting and developing sports in Japan since leaving the imperial family in 1947, after the passage of a new constitution. The former prince was an IOC member from 1967 to 1981, during which he served as director of its executive board for five years from 1971. After being elected as IOC president in 1962, Mr. Takeda was one of the key figures in organising both the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and the 1972 Sapporo Winter Games, the first summer and winter Olympics held in Asia. Meiji was the first emperor of modern Japan, ruling from 1868 to 1912.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 12, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take care of obligations you have early in the day and later on take time to have some fun with persons you really enjoy spending time with. Follow your mates ideas and get right results.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now have a day when you can go directly to an outside influential person and present to this individual your capabilities of a practical order.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You see the means by which you can improve both your health as well as your personal appearance and can be very detailed in making tone-ups.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You would be sensible to now meet with a very down to earth advisor and go into intimate personal matters on a very confidential basis, accept advice given.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get the support of a good friend who understands your mundane needs so let this person be aware of them but tonight avoid a restless bigwig.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go to one who has the power to show you to handle a world matter and get sound advice and then follow but tonight sidestep a sneaky newcomer.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can get the practical suggestions you need for progress from a new source so study and put into motion but tonight steer clear of a money scheme.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Now you have a day to get into whatever problems businessmen or bankers can help you with to your advantage but don't listen to a concocted associate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a good chance now to clarify an agreement with a pretty purposeful partner while in the evening a task that seems important is just not.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) The specifics of any type of activity facing you need to be done with more than usual conscientiousness; tonight a comrade can pull a fast on you.

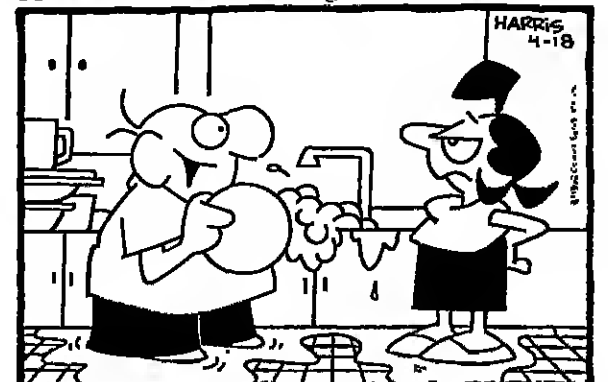
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the day for you to get into the details of whatever recreations or goodtimes that appeal to you but tonight don't take up problems at home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Working out a perplexity at your residence should be very much on your mind during the daytime but tonight is not the time for taking risks or gambles.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day for you to use your ability to have everything about you exact and meticulous while tonight financial matters can be confusing.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Washing dishes is fun if you pretend you're Godzilla and the forks are submarines..."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUPEA

OBOAT

QULLAS

YOHRT



HOW TO TALK IN ORDER TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF HAVING A SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

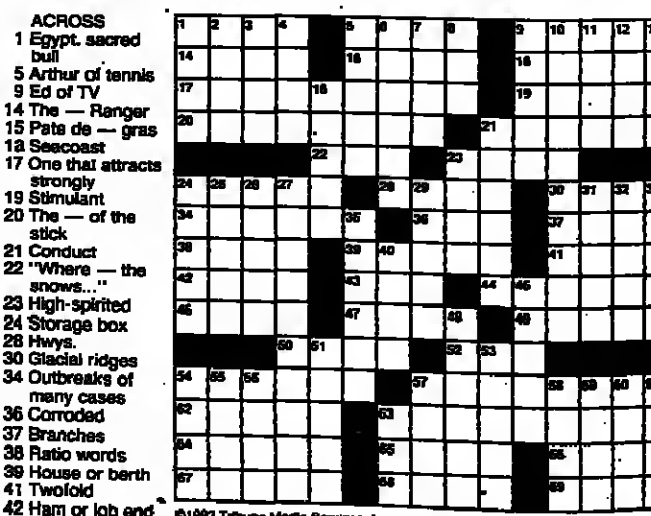
Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MONEY AGENT POTTER GUIDED

Answer: On Mondays, many a man does his hardest work before breakfast... GETTING UP

THE Daily Crossword by Rena M. Campbell



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

Across: 1. Egypt, sacred bull; 2. Author of tennis; 3. Ed of TV; 14. The Ranger; 15. Pate de - gras; 18. Seacoast; 19. One that attracts strongly; 20. Stimulant; 21. The - of the stick; 22. Conduct; 23. Where the answer; 24. High-spirited; 25. Storage box; 26. Hays; 30. Glacial ridges; 34. Outbreaks of many cases; 36. Corroded; 37. Branches; 38. Ratio words; 39. House or berth; 41. Twofold; 42. Ham or job end; 43. - West; 44. Afr. fly; 46. Annoying one; 47. Assorted; abbr.; 48. Lock of hair; 50. Lively dance; 52. Poem; 54. Pretentious talk; 57. Time server of a; 62. Old-time actor; 63. Warner; 64. Pottery type; 65. Butting; 66. Ripped; 67. Bancroft; 68. Fragrant compound; 69. Appraise; 69. Back talk; 7. Red deer; 8. Shoe width; 9. Basting about; 10. Kind of cook; 11. Not any; 12. Clapnet; 13. Geometric figure; abbr.; 18. Sky; 21. - Storm; 23. A Rose; 24. Firm and fresh; 25. Speed; 26. Kolesaver; 27. Like some plans; 28. Records; 31. Fry quickly; 32. Accommodate; 33. Veas; 35. A season; 40. Cannikin kin; 46. Cubic meter; 48. Colleague; 51. Sea duck; 53. Recipient; 54. Fireman's need; 55. Cornish cheers; 56. Pastry; 57. Gr. walk; 58. - the night before...; 59. Galilee village; 60. Banovars; 61. Goller's need; 63. Ship; abbr.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
#63 ♠EQJ10762 ♦Void ♠A1093
As dealer, what is your opening bid?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
#63 ♠EQJ10762 ♦9 ♠A103
As dealer, what is your opening bid?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
#63 ♠EQJ10762 ♦Void ♠A1093
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What is your opening bid?

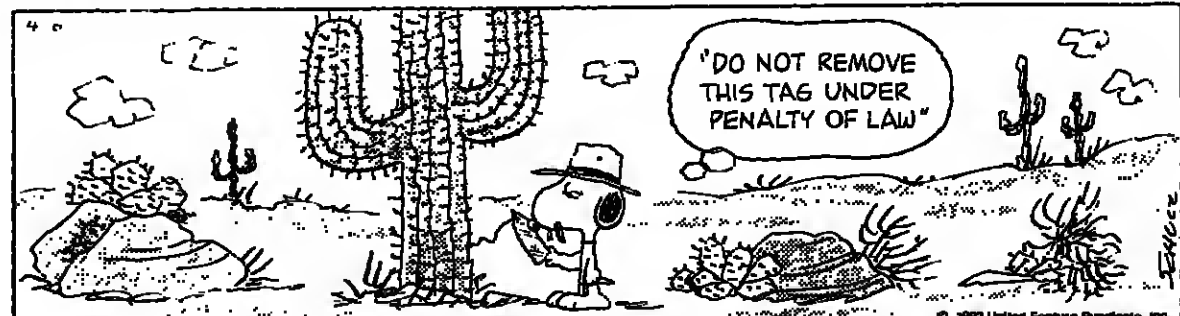
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

#KQ74 ♠AQJ9 ♦AJ5 ♠73
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

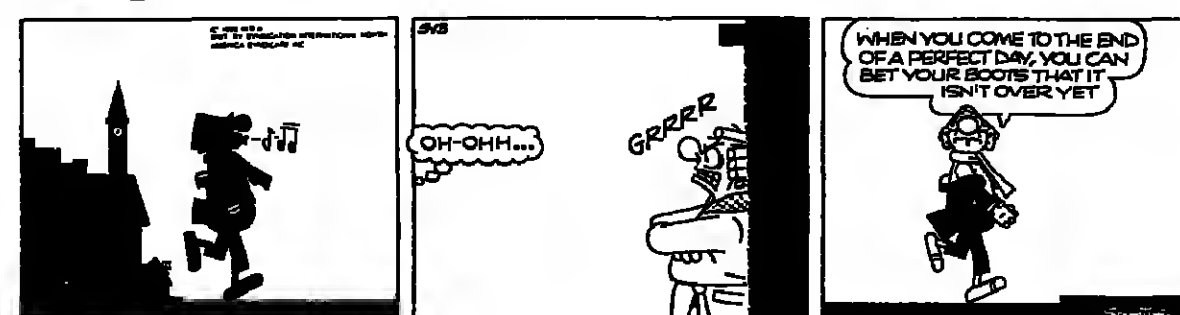
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
#10872 ♠A5 ♦A5 ♠KQ1062
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#95 ♠AQ10865 ♦A ♠KQ107
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
3 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

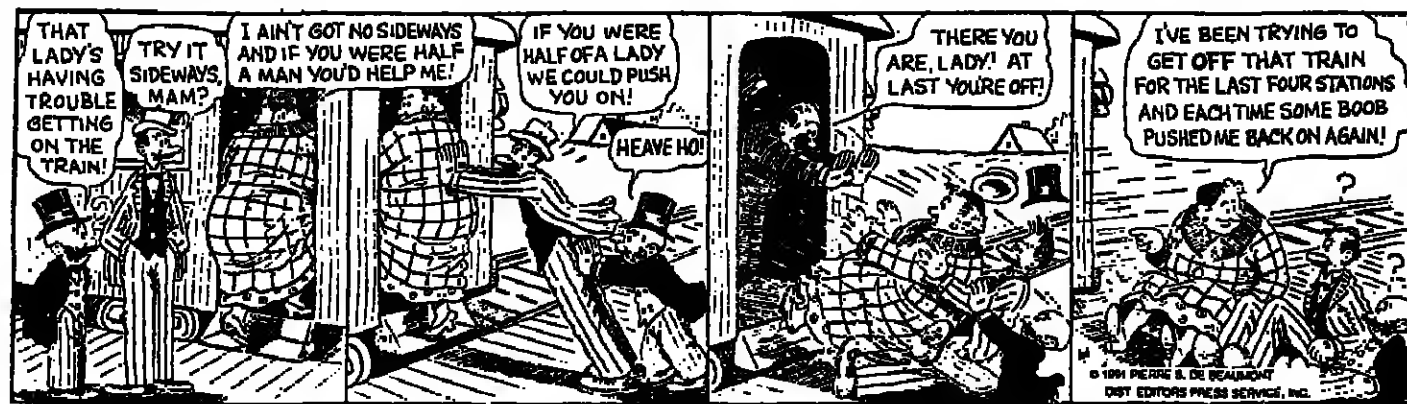
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



السلامة

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 8/5/92	TOKYO CLOSE 8/5/92
Sterling Pound	1.7905	1.7905
Deutsche Mark	1.6440	1.6440
Swiss Franc	1.5253	1.5263
French Franc	5.5253	5.5310**
Japanese Yen	133.37	133.17
European Currency Unit	1.2495	1.2497**

* 1992 For SIC
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Interest Rates Date: 11/5/92

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	3.75	3.81	3.93	4.43
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.87
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.75	9.68	9.56
Swiss Franc	8.62	8.56	8.50	8.25
French Franc	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.75
Japanese Yen	4.71	4.68	4.56	4.50
European Currency Unit	10.00	9.96	9.96	10.00

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Metals Date: 11/5/92

Metal	USD/oz	JD/oz	Metal	USD/oz	JD/oz
Gold	336.55	6.60	Silver	4.10	.090

* B. Kasir

Currency Bid Offer

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.685	0.687
Sterling Pound	1.2255	1.2316
Deutsche Mark	0.4162	0.4183
Swiss Franc	0.4485	0.4507
French Franc	0.1238	0.1244
Japanese Yen	0.5137	0.5163
Dutch Guilder	0.3699	0.3717
Swedish Krona	0.1155	0.1161
Italian Lira	0.0555	0.0556
Belgian Franc	0.0202	0.0203

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 11/5/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Tahran Rial	1.7900	1.8000
Lebanese Lira	0.0380	0.0480
Saudi Riyal	0.1823	0.1835
Kuwait Dinar	0.1858	0.1868
Qatari Riyal	0.2000	0.2150
Egyptian Pound	1.7530	1.7630
Omani Riyal	0.1858	0.1868
UAE Dirham	0.3545	0.3749
Greek Drachma	1.4690	1.4890
Cypriot Pound		

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	1/5/92	Close	10/5/92	Close
All-Share	141.98		142.46	
Banking Sector	105.80		105.86	
Insurance Sector	147.88		146.16	
Industry Sector	192.84		193.78	
Services Sector	178.50		181.72	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7885/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2032/37	Canadian dollar
	1.6440/50	Deutsche marks
	1.8510/20	Dutch guilders
	1.5262/72	Swiss francs
	33.82/86	Belgian francs
	5.5375/5425	French francs
	1238/1240	Italian lire
	133.20/30	Japanese yen
	5.9130/80	Swedish crowns
	6.4115/65	Norwegian crowns
	6.3540/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$336.60	

Iraq bans private trade in grain

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, struggling to ship this year's harvest into government silos, has banned private trade in wheat and barley and prevented farmers hoarding grain.

The government pins great hope on this year's crop to keep its rationing system working to ease the grip of international sanctions for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The state newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said Monday the government would monopolize the marketing of this year's grain and send out inspectors to catch farmers violating the orders.

"Trade ministry instructions restrict the marketing of wheat and barley to Iraq's (state-run) Grain Board," the newspaper quoted a senior official at the ministry as saying.

"Farmers and producers are not allowed to keep any amount of the crop or trade in it via commercial agents or any other party apart from the state," it quoted Grain Board Director-General Zuhair Abdul Rahman as saying.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said provincial committees comprising officials from the ministries of interior, agriculture and trade "will keep checks on producers (farmers) to make sure that the instructions are strictly adhered to."

Al Thawra, the ruling Baath Party newspaper, said Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh promised quick delivery of cash to farmers in return for their crops.

Farmers will get their money "within 24 hours," the newspaper quoted the minister as saying.

"The number of grain collecting centres are three times more than those available in the country before the (U.N.) sanctions were imposed on Iraq," Al Thawra quoted Mr. Saleh as saying.

The new measures are part of an Iraqi government campaign to ship as much as possible of this year's harvest into its granaries.

Last week it drew up plans to supervise the use of combine harvesters throughout the country.

In April it offered farmers huge producer price rises, amounting to 181 per cent for wheat and 200 per cent for barley.

African states urge cuts in arms spending

World Bank to assess military expenditure of future borrowers

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The World Bank said Sunday it will assess military spending by 85 Third World countries when deciding how much to lend them in their battle against poverty.

The bank's "non-productive" spending "such as military expenditures" will help determine the bank's level of support, said a 16-page "operational directive" released by the bank.

Poverty reduction is the institution's overarching objective, Bank President Lewis Preston — formerly of the J. P. Morgan and Company Bank — wrote in an introduction.

The bank made clear that the amount of loans a country can expect is linked to the strength of its own effort to reduce poverty. Greater commitment will get greater support, weaker commitment will get less support.

Japan and Germany have already made it clear that they will look into military spending when they make up their own aid programmes.

U.S. Congressman Henry Gonzalez of Texas, chairman of the House Banking Committee, has said he will push to take the United States out of international organisations if they keep on lending money that makes it easier for the borrowers to spend other money on arms.

The World Bank is the biggest of intergovernmental lending agencies, approving loans worth about \$24 billion a year. Its original purpose was to help poor countries out of poverty.

The United States owns the biggest block of shares among the 159 member countries.

Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union are now becoming members of the bank and eligible for its loans.

The World Bank must determine which of the republics are poor enough to warrant a poverty programme. If any qualify, they would have to go through a lengthy process that would determine the need of each. While Russia itself might be considered too well developed to warrant an anti-poverty programme, some central Asian republics might qualify and welcome it.

In the past, the bank was occasionally criticised for forgetting its original anti-poverty goal. But Sven Sandstrom, one of the bank's three managing directors, said World Bank projects of the 1970s were over-ambitious and there were some failures.

"In the 1980s... we focused heavily on macroeconomic policies and other economic reforms to try to help countries make their economies more efficient and restore economic growth. In the 1990s, we see poverty reduction as the pre-eminent focus of our work," he pointed out.

John Mitchell, a bank spokesman, said that by 1994 the bank staff expects to complete the 85 country reviews now planned. He explained that they would include

not only the poorest countries, but some that the bank rates as "upper middle-income," like Brazil.

According to the bank's estimates, the average Brazilian earned only \$2,680 in 1990.

The directive calls for cooperation between officials of the bank and of individual countries and tells in detail what points their reviews should deal with.

Each country review will try to find what major issues impede reduction of poverty, will look into the effect of public spending, describe the country's safety net for the poorest — if it has one — and recommend a strategy and targets.

Meanwhile, a conference attended by five African leaders agreed Sunday that African states must cut their military spending to fund development programmes and service their foreign debt.

The presidents of Botswana, Nigeria, Benin, Senegal and Uganda and representatives of other African states and the World Bank took part in the two-day meeting of the Global Coalition for Africa, an international think-tank.

"There was a consensus that Africa's immediate challenge is to end conflict and internal strife. Only then, we can overcome the challenges of famine, debt, economic stagnation and democratic change," Botswana's President Quett Masire, who chaired the

meeting, told reporters Saturday night.

He added: "If we can cut our military expenditure by 50 per cent we can realise the funds we need for economic development."

Mr. Masire said the African leaders wanted Western countries to help them overcome their current problems. He said he hoped the Kampala meeting would bring a better understanding of Africa's woes among the world's rich nations.

He said they had looked at ways of strengthening the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and other continental bodies to enable them to achieve peace in the continent.

"The OAU in the past has failed to end these conflicts," Mr. Masire said.

The meeting also discussed the impact of drought in Africa and the need to ensure adequate food supplies in spite of the economic problems plaguing most African countries, he added.

It was agreed that low commodity prices were hindering African states from building up their economies. The low prices were a big factor preventing Africa from achieving its target of a five per cent growth rate.

The African leaders said the fall in their export incomes contrasted sharply with the rise in their debt burdens in recent years.

B.P. posts 1st ever historic cost loss

LONDON (R) — British Petroleum Co. PLC (B.P.), one of the world's biggest oil groups, has said low oil prices and economic recession in the first three months of 1992 pushed it into its first quarterly loss.

B.P. said it had a first quarter historic cost net loss of £61 million (\$109 million) against a £10 million (\$18 million) gain in the same period of 1991.

Replacement cost net income, which strips out stockholding gains or losses caused by changes in oil prices, slumped to £95 million (\$169 million) from £521 million (\$928 million).

The company held its dividend at 4.2 pence per share despite its being uncovered by earnings. B.P.'s loss per share was 1.1 pence compared with earnings of 0.2 pence a year earlier.

In a statement with the results, B.P. said the outlook for the next few months suggested that trading conditions would be just as difficult as in the recent past and

there was still concern about potential oil production from Kuwait and Iraq.

"The situation is not a very rosy one," deputy chairman and chief operating officer David Simon told a media briefing.

Mr. Simon said oil prices and steady oil demand were encouraging signs of some pick up in economies, but the outlook was still muted and he said oil company profit margins would lag as the world moves out of recession.

The results were in line with worst-case forecasts, but analysts said they would focus attention on B.P.'s financial woes and the possibility of a dividend cut later in the year.

"It is not a healthy situation when you have cash outflow of 2-1/2 times your dividend payment," said Nick Clayton of brokers Smith New Court, although he said B.P. would try "at all costs" to avoid a dividend cut.

B.P.'s net cash outflow was £544 million (\$968.6 million) in the quarter. The dividend payment cost £227 million (\$404.3 million).

The cash outflow meant B.P. needed to increase debt. Short term borrowings rose by £624 million (\$1.11 billion), and gearing, or debt-to-equity ratio, rose to 85.4 per cent.

B.P. said profit in its upstream, oil and gas exploration and production division fell to £426 million (\$758.7 million) from £483 million (\$860.2 million) as severe price falls for its Alaskan crude oil and lower U.S. production offset improvement elsewhere.

A fall in downstream, oil refining and marketing profit to £79 million (\$140.7 million) from £385 million (\$685.6 million) reflected lower margins and demand for products after exceptional margins were achieved in early 1991 due to the effects of

the Gulf war.

B.P.'s chemicals division had a loss of £25 million (\$44.52 million) compared with profit of £54 million (\$96.17 million) in the first quarter 1991, and Mr. Simon said there was no sign of an upturn in margins in the chemicals business.

Recession and low oil prices have prompted B.P. to cut capital expenditure by 15 per cent to \$6.5 billion this year, and Mr. Simon said a similar cut was expected next year.

Major projects on the books at present include the potentially vast Cusiana oil field in Colombia, which B.P. has described as "world class" but has yet to assess fully.

Mr. Simon said B.P. was very confident of achieving targeted cost cuts of some \$750 million annually by 1994, but officials said restructuring and job losses would cost some £120 million (\$213.7 million) to £160 million (\$284.9 million) this year.

Kuwait endorses \$20 b buyout of bad debts

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government gave its final approval Sunday to a plan to buy about \$20 billion of bad debts from troubled commercial banks, which critics say will lead to a bail-out of influential debtors.

The Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) quoted government spokesman and minister of cabinet affairs Dhari Abdullah Al Othman as saying the plan was endorsed at a regular cabinet meeting.

The cabinet referred the plan to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who would then issue a decree making it law.

The scheme, which would let banks dispose of debts on 1991 balance sheets and start afresh, allows the government to buy bank debts at full value by issuing bonds with a maximum 20-year maturity.

The plan was originally drafted by the government in December and in March was approved by the partially elected National Council which introduced a few changes.

It was not clear if the government introduced further changes to the plan, but Sheikh Othman said the scheme was approved "based on the comments of the National Council."

Economists say the most crucial issue approved by the council was that debtors, including some of Kuwait's most influential people, had to reveal details of their finances.

They say the government was using debts resulting from Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait as an excuse to relieve top people of pre-invasion debts.

"They also say that the plan to issue bonds to cover the debts would put too much pressure on the emirate's heavily burdened treasury."

Kuwait already has three billion dinars (\$11 billion) worth of outstanding treasury bills and bonds, the economists say.

The emirate signed a \$5.5 billion credit with international banks in December to cope with post-Gulf war costs. Its budget deficit hit a record \$18.3 billion in fiscal 1991-92.

The National Council has no legislative power but critics say the government sought its approval for political reasons.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SINGAPORE — Shares closed lower led by blue chip losses in thin trading. The Straits times industrial index fell by 14.23 points to 1,459.54.

BOMBAY — Prices plummeted on fresh newspaper reports alleging securities scandals, brokers said. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index crashed 237.95 points to 3,420.05.

FRANKFURT — German shares ended a quiet session mostly higher, struggling off worries about industrial action as metalworkers continued token strikes. The 30-Share Dax Index rose 4.85 points to 1,753.03.

ZURICH — Swiss shares ended a busy session at a new year-high led by chemical group Sandoz and major banks. The all-share SPI Index rose 9.4 points to close at 1,216.7.

LONDON — The FTSE closed at its fourth straight all-time high as investors switched out of German markets. The index closed 12.1 points higher at 2,737.8.

PARIS — Buyers from Britain and the U.S. helped push Paris Bourse blue chips to another 23-month closing high. The CAC-40 index ended 14.09 points higher at 2,077.49.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks posted solid gains at midday with Dow trading around session highs. The Dow was up 15.21 points at 3,384.62.

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Serbs tighten hold on Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Heavy fighting ripped through Sarajevo early Monday, killing at least four people, as Serb forces tightened their hold on this embattled city that once stood as a symbol of ethnic harmony.

Belgrade's independent daily newspaper Borba accused Serb militiamen of "systematically murdering Sarajevo" by indiscriminately shelling the city day and night. It said Serbian authorities were forcing all Serbs in Serb-held parts of the city to join the militia and terrorise Muslim and Croat neighbours.

More than 1,300 people have died in 45 days of ethnic warfare in Bosnia-Herzegovina since its Muslims and Croats — who make up almost two-thirds of the 4.3 million inhabitants — voted for independence on Feb. 29. Serbs, who make up about a third of the population, fiercely oppose any separation from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

War has forced at least 700,000 people to flee their homes. On Sunday in Sarajevo, about 100 children, clinging to weeping parents until the last minute, boarded European Community (EC) buses for Belgrade. Most of the children were to fly on to Moscow. Others were going to stay with relatives in Britain.

Doctors at Sarajevo's main hospital reported 45 wounded had arrived since Sunday. Shelling died down by mid-morning, allowing residents to venture out and buy bread from trucks.

But fighting was particularly

heavy overnight around Marshal Tito Barracks in central Sarajevo, where Serb Muslims, Serbs and Croats lived in harmony for centuries.

Soldiers from the Serb-led federal army, which is gradually being transformed into a Serbian force, were due to withdraw Monday from the Tito Barracks to another barracks just southwest of the city under United Nations escort.

But Serb paramilitary forces who advanced to about one kilometre from the Tito Barracks seemed intent on preventing the departure of the soldiers, whom they see as protectors.

Bosnian forces control the streets immediately around the barracks. Clashes also broke out near the barracks to which the federal troops were supposed to withdraw.

Radio said at least four people were killed in overnight clashes in Sarajevo, a city of 600,000 that has been ravaged by fighting. The radio said Sunday there is no safe drinking water in some districts.

Fighting also raged in the southwestern town of Mostar, once a picturesque tourist spot that is 80 per cent Muslim and Croat.

Croatian Radio said Sunday that 90 per cent of Mostar had been destroyed, and its 16th century bridge seriously damaged. Radio Belgrade claimed the Yugoslav army was forced to target the bridge because Croatian snipers had taken up posi-

tions on the towers on each bank. Serb militias have strengthened their presence in and around the Hotel Bosna in Ilidza, the base for the EC mission and most foreign journalists in Sarajevo.

They fired heavy artillery and rockets all night from the hotel grounds, apparently aiming at Muslim-held suburbs and the airport.

Vehbijar Karic, deputy commander of Bosnia's Territorial Defence Force, Sunday warned foreign journalists to leave the hotel, saying it was a potential military target.

Serb militias fill the hotel dining room at mealtimes and mill around the lobby. In the first reported incident of its kind, Muslim and Croat militia clashed in the town of Busovaca, about 50 kilometres northwest of Sarajevo, Bosnian media reported Monday.

The clash, which injured one Muslim, occurred Sunday after the last federal troops withdrew from local barracks, Bosnia's official BH Press Agency reported.

Meanwhile international organisations including the Red Cross and the United Nations are considering withdrawing their staff from the war-torn capital of Bosnia.

The International Committee of the Red Cross will consider closing its Sarajevo office if two Red Cross vehicles hijacked by Serb militias are not returned, said Heidi Huber, the organisation's top official in the Bosnian capital.

"There is no respect for the Red Cross," Ms. Huber said. "We can't do our job properly — it's too dangerous, the authorities are not reliable, the situation is really dangerous."

Vitor Martins, deputy head of the EC peace monitoring mission said the Community is evaluating the mission's presence in Sarajevo "on a daily basis."

Five peace monitors have been killed in Croatia and one in Bosnia.

The Red Cross jeep and truck carrying medicine for Sarajevo and Zenica hospitals were commandeered en route from Belgrade Saturday at a Serb roadblock in Vogosca, just north of besieged Sarajevo.

Despite Ms. Huber's intervention Sunday, the vehicles were not returned. "If we don't get the vehicles back, we will close down the mission," she said.

"It's a shame for the medicines — the ambulance centre and hospital here really need them — but I'm more afraid because of the jeep," she said. "They will abuse the Red Cross sign."

Ambulances have often been used for gun-running by both sides. U.N. sources say the headquarters staff of the U.N. peacekeepers could leave Sarajevo if fighting further escalates.

The EC, which evacuated all non-essential personnel to the Croatian port of Split last Tuesday, faces hostility from extremists on all sides who claim the Community is taking sides.



Miriam Defensor Santiago

Santiago, Ramos lead in early Philippine returns

MANILA (AP) — Early unofficial returns of elections Monday showed dark horse presidential candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago leading President Corason Aquino's preferred candidate by a slim margin.

The figures, compiled from tabulation centres in Manila and surrounding provinces and broadcast by ABS-CBN television, represented only a fraction of the millions of votes cast in the largest election in Philippine history.

More comprehensive unofficial figures were not expected until early Tuesday (not before 2000 GMT Monday). The final official tally was not expected for several days, possibly weeks.

Mrs. Santiago was leading with 5,019 votes while former Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos had 3,957, according to ABS-CBN. Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, a close ally of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, was third with 3,012 votes.

Sen. Jovito Salonga had 2,356 votes; Marcos' widow Imelda, 1,436; House Speaker Ramon Mitra, 1,202; and Vice President Salvador Laurel, 402.

Mr. Cojuangco's running mate, Sen. Joseph Estrada, was leading in the race for vice president with 5,222 votes, well ahead of second-place Emilio Osmena, Gen. Ramos' running mate, with 2,721.

Voters could choose a president from one ticket and a vice president from another. The returns, although partial and unofficial, seemed to confirm recent surveys that showed Mrs. Santiago and Gen. Ramos in a close race, especially in Manila.

Both must finish strong in the capital to offset anticipated losses in rural areas, where Mr. Mitra and Mr. Cojuangco have strong machines.

In addition to voting for president, Filipinos also filled more than 17,000 local and national posts from among more than 87,700 candidates.

Scattered violence and election irregularities were reported but the voting generally went smoothly in Manila.

The Commission On Elections estimated the winner may take no more than 25 per cent of the vote, hardly a convincing mandate to govern a country beset by massive poverty, social injustice and one of the world's last active Marxist insurgencies.

Azeris, Armenians dispute Shusha, Iran sends envoy

BAKU, Azerbaijan (R) — Azerbaijan and Armenia contested control of the strategic town of Shusha Monday and an Iranian mediator flew in to try to halt the latest round of bloodletting in the territorial dispute.

A Defence Ministry spokesman in Baku said Azeri forces were still battling for the town, former capital of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"We received a radio communication from Shusha this morning saying the situation had not changed," he said.

But Armenia said the Armenian irregulars who took the town early Saturday were still in control.

"Shusha is now under the control of the self-defence forces and the Nagorno-Karabakh government," Armenian Deputy Defence Minister Andranik Kocharyan said by telephone from Yerevan.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi arrived in the Azeri capital Baku to try and halt the undeclared war between the two former Soviet republics.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said that after talks there he was expected to fly to Yerevan as early as Monday.

Neighbouring Iran has emerged as the most promising peacemaker in the Transcaucasian conflict, which has killed more than 1,500 people in the past four years.

The Armenian and Azeri leaders were actually signing a ceasefire in the presence of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani last Friday when news broke of the Armenian attack on Shusha.

Numerous previous attempts at a diplomatic solution to the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, inhabited mainly by Armenians but awarded to Azerbaijan by the Kremlin in 1923, have failed. The Armenians say they were obliged to capture Shusha to

knock out Azeri batteries which were making life in the battered modern capital Stepanakert unbearable.

"Major firing positions in Shusha were put out of action," Mr. Kocharyan said.

But they have now chased virtually all the Azeri minority out of the territory.

Armenia has denied Azeri allegations that it was trying to punch a corridor through the strip of Azeri territory separating Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh.

But it warned, in a Foreign Ministry statement issued Sunday, that such a corridor might be needed unless Azerbaijan ended an economic stranglehold on the territory.

"If the blockade is not ended soon, Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Forces may be compelled to open up a lifeline to their republic," it said. "Such a move would contribute to still further escalation of tensions and violence."

Armenia said it was calling for an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council to ask for peacekeeping forces to be sent to the region in the light of recent statements by its neighbour and ancient foe Turkey.

The statement said Armenia saw "sensationalist" reporting of the conflict in the Turkish semi-official news media as preparation for a potential Turkish intervention.

"The Republic of Armenia is increasingly concerned by ... pronouncements by Turkish government and political leaders about possible intervention by Turkey," the statement said.

Armenia's appeal said Turkish leaders have made a "series of pronouncements on possible Turkish intervention in the Transcaucasus" and accused Turkey of supplying weapons to Azerbaijani forces in Nakhichevan, an area in Azerbaijan

S. Africa talks resume with government under fire

CAPE TOWN (R) — Negotiations on the transition to non-racial democracy in South Africa resumed Monday with the government position weakened by allegations of corruption in a department once headed by its chief negotiator.

Government spokesman Dirk Venter said sub-committees of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) met again at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) on deallocked proposals for all-race interim rule and the framework for a non-racial constitution.

Delegates from 19 parties including the government are due to report to a two-day plenary session beginning Friday but conference sources said there was no agreement by Monday morning on the details of what had been achieved.

"I don't think we have progressed much further than we were last week," said one government official. "The mere fact that the committees are still meeting at this late stage shows there is a long way to go."

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) warned that failure to agree at least a framework for transition from white rule to democracy could cause a crisis in the country.

The white-dominated parliament is holding a snap debate Monday evening on an official report last week revealing massive corruption in the now de-

fect department of development aid, which chief negotiator Gerrit Viljoen once headed.

Opposition members have demanded that Mr. Viljoen, who is on sick leave until June, should resign because he failed to halt theft, fraud and bribery officially estimated to have cost the nation billions of dollars.

But Regional Affairs Minister Jacob De Villiers said the government would reject the demands. "You cannot pick on ministers and expect them to know exactly every detail that is going on in their departments. That is why they employ officials," he said.

Mr. De Klerk's government is also under fire for the alleged political execution of leading black activist Matthew Goniwe in 1985 and new charges of covert police action against the ANC earlier this year.

"The smell of moral decay can be felt at all levels of government," the influential Business Day Commented Monday.

A government source acknowledged that the flood of allegations against Mr. De Klerk's government and its predecessors could undermine him in the run-up to Friday's plenary meeting.

"The government will find itself on very weak ground if and when it tries to take a tough line against the rest of us at CODESA," opposition Democratic Party leader Zach De Beer said after a strategy meeting Sunday.

Seoul refuses to open U.S. bases to N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korea has turned down a demand by Pyongyang that it open U.S. bases in the country to North Korean nuclear inspectors, a Seoul government spokesman said Monday.

"North Korea's demands will not be accepted. The North is asking us to open all our U.S. bases when they are allowing inspection of only the Yongbyon plant," a Unification Ministry spokesman said.

South Korean President Roh Tae-woo said in December that his country was free of nuclear weapons.

Pyeongyang made the demand earlier Monday as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director Hans Blix was due to arrive in the North Korean capital for a six-day visit.

Seoul, Tokyo and Washington allege North Korean scientists at Yongbyon, 95 kilometres north of Pyongyang, are close to developing atomic weapons.

South Korean officials have said inspections by the IAEA will not reveal every detail of the North Korean nuclear programme.

The two Koreas have yet to work out a formula for mutual nuclear inspection even though they have agreed in principle to allow simultaneous inspections by early June.

South Korean news reports have said Mr. Blix's itinerary includes an inspection of the Yongbyon plant.

A U.S. academic who visited Pyongyang told Japan's NHK television last week that a senior North Korean official confirmed Yongbyon had succeeded in producing "a little bit of plutonium" for experimental use.

Plutonium is a core ingredient of a nuclear bomb.

The North Korean demand was made in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

Gorbachev urges former Soviet states to reunite

ATLANTA (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev has said he would like to see the former Soviet Union's republics reunite as one, but with the goal of providing social and economic freedom to all.

People in the former country's now-independent republics "all would like to preserve this, our country, this vast world which evolved over centuries," Mr. Gorbachev said Sunday.

porters Sunday night after meeting with former President Jimmy Carter and several local business executives.

The former Soviet leader said he remains devoted to socialism, but believes that it must be accompanied by democracy.

"I still believe I am committed to socialism as an idea, but my analysis shows that socialism never actually existed in any country," he said. "What we had in our country was not socialism but a Stalinist idea that shattered and shackled our country."

"I'm sure that they can eventually make the politicians understand that," he added.

Mr. Gorbachev spoke with re-

Thai opposition vows more protests if deal broken

BANGKOK (R) — The Thai opposition ended a week of mass protests Monday but promised "harder, tougher" demonstrations if the government went back on a deal under which the prime minister must be an elected member of parliament.

A final protest by up to 40,000 people dispersed from a Bangkok boulevard minutes before a 5 a.m. (2200 GMT) deadline agreed by security forces and opposition leaders after the governing coalition promised to amend the constitution.

Crowds of 100,000 in recent days had called for the immediate resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon, who stepped down as supreme military commander last month despite not holding a parliamentary seat.

The peaceful protests were the largest in Thailand since the 1970s.

"We will continue harder, tougher, better" if the amendment deal collapses, said opposition leader Chamlong Srimuang, a former governor of Bangkok whose six-day hunger strike, which ended Saturday, spurred the demonstrations.

The opposition leader told the protesters — some of whom shouted their disagreement to compromise — that a follow-up rally would be held next Sunday. "Till we meet again," he said.

Officials said the ruling coalition of five pro-military parties had agreed to amend Thailand's constitution so that a prime minister must be chosen from among elected members of parliament.

The current constitution contains no such restriction. It was adopted last year by a military-named legislature after a February 1991 coup engineered by Gen. Suchinda which overthrew the government of the last democratically elected premier.

Air Chief Marshal Kasat Ratanan, who succeeded Gen. Suchinda as armed forces chief, said the general would accept any constitutional amendment. However, it remained unclear if Gen. Suchinda would view such an amendment as retroactive and step down as the opposition has insisted.

Parliament speaker Ukrit Mongkolkeha told reporters he had met leaders of the four opposition parties Monday and received their demands. He said he would give the ruling coalition until Friday to present their position.

He said debate on a draft amendment would start on May 22 and if there was a majority to both the House of Representatives and the military-appointed Senate the amendment was likely to be approved by parliament at the end of June.

Suchit Bumbongkarn, dean of the political science faculty at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, thought Gen. Suchinda might insist on serving out his term on the grounds that he was legitimately appointed under the existing constitution.

"This would not solve the problem. That is why Chamlong is seeking a firm commitment," he said. "Suchinda must resign or stand in an election."

Los Angeles remains calm following federal troop pullout

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Vendors sold Mother's Day carnations in front of burned buildings as the peace held in riot-ravaged neighbourhoods despite the withdrawal of troops.

"It's nice and quiet tonight," Sharyn Michelson, a police spokeswoman, said late Sunday. The departure Saturday of 4,000 Marines and army troops "hasn't had any impact as far as we can tell."

Gov. Pete Wilson said 10,000 National Guardsmen would remain here indefinitely. The Guard troops have withdrawn from the streets to armoured, except during night patrols, said Maj. Pat Antosh, a Guard spokesman.

Ms. Michelson said the police remain "on alert and at full mobilisation."

The police commission, at the request of Mayor Tom Bradley, was expected to create a panel Monday to review the police department's handling of the riots.

Police were widely accused of intervening too late and doing too little to protect businesses during the April 29-May 1 uprising.

The mayor will give the commission subpoena power if necessary, said Bill Chandler, Mr. Bradley's spokesman.

Police Chief Daryl Gates has acknowledged mistakes were made during the riot but said the department performed "beautifully" overall.

The rioting, touched off by the

acquittal of four white police officers in the videotaped beating of black motorist Rodney King, left 53 people dead and nearly 2,400 injured. Hundreds of businesses were looted and burned.

In south central Los Angeles, vendors sold carnations for the Mother's Day holiday. In the Rose Garden at Exposition Park, a riot-stricken area, families in Sunday finery strolled past National Guardsmen.

Kanasaratnam Sivakaran, co-owner of Ahala Meat Centre, said his neighbourhood near Koreatown remained tense.

"At night we are scared. We used to stay open until 10. But now we close at 8:30. The problem is the gang guys, they're saying, 'we're not afraid of LAPD.' It's scary," he said.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the Los Angeles riots, most Americans are alarmed at the state of race relations in the United States and think the government isn't doing enough for cities, according to a poll.

The New York Times-CBS News poll published Monday found a majority of those responding view the riots as a "warning" and think it is now time to devote more attention to minorities and impoverished inner city communities.

A majority of both blacks and whites said President George Bush responded poorly to the riots.

Los Angeles remains calm following federal troop pullout

Similar majorities favoured investing in jobs and job training programmes over spending more money on law enforcement, the poll found.

The poll also showed that Americans are more concerned than they were four years ago about urban problems. Sixty-one per cent said the United States is spending "too little" on improving conditions for blacks, up from 35 per cent who had that view four years ago.

Sixty-three per cent said the government is not paying enough attention to the needs and problems of minorities, up from 34 per cent in 1988.

Although they feel the U.S. government is not doing enough, Americans do not feel that spending more money is the best solution.

More than half said the biggest difficulty was a lack of knowledge and understanding about how to solve the problems. One-third said the biggest difficulty was a lack of national concern.

The poll was based on telephone interviews with 1,253 adults nationwide. It was taken on May 6-8 and had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

In a separate development, legal experts say the Justice Department does not have an open-and-shut civil rights case against the Los Angeles Police officers who beat Rodney King, despite the infamous videotape of the inci-

dent. A Federal Grand Jury has begun its investigation to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to charge the officers with violating Mr. King's civil rights.

Justice Department officials have made clear that the King beating investigation is not just focusing on the four officers whose acquittal touched off the worst rioting this century.

The grand jury also is considering the behaviour of 15 other officers at the scene of the March 3, 1991, beating. It could take several months before the Grand Jury is asked to return indictments.

But legal experts caution there are several obstacles to a conviction even if the Grand Jury indicts one or more officers.

Justice Department prosecutors note that they have lost other criminal civil rights prosecutions despite police videotape evidence of police beatings.

One complicating factor is that some police force may have been justified against Mr. King. Although largely overlooked in the uproar over the acquittal of the officers, the local Los Angeles prosecutors conceded that point at the outset of the state trial.

Cases where no physical contact is appropriate "are easier to win than those where some, but not all, of the force used by police against a suspect is justified, former Justice Department prosecu-

tors say. "Typically these cases involve some legitimate police-citizen contact which may on occasion involve some legitimate use of force," said C. Brian McDonald, former deputy chief of department's Civil Rights Criminal Prosecution Section.

"The question is why does the force escalate and when it does, does it cross over the line between what is reasonable and what is not reasonable," Mr. McDonald said.

Mr. McDonald said he believes the Justice Department is taking the proper course by not rushing to bring federal charges.

"Some dissipation of the emotions of the past week will be good for everyone," he said. "It's wise to go slow."

Another obstacle in police brutality cases is the reluctance of jurors to convict officers of a crime.

"Jurors are reluctant, no matter who they are, to brand a police officer a criminal and consign them to a prison," U.S. Circuit Judge Jon O. Newman, who tried police brutality cases as a U.S. attorney in Connecticut, told a house subcommittee hearing on the issue last week.

The King Grand Jury is investigating whether there was a violation of the 1870 civil rights statute that makes it a crime for public officials "under colour of law" to violate the civil rights of citizens. It carries a 10-year prison term.

COLUMN 8

Lord Byron's hair to be auctioned

LONDON (R) — A lock of hair from the English 19th-century romantic poet Lord Byron is expected to fetch up to £500 (\$890) when it is sold at auction next month, London auctioneer Bonhams said Sunday. It said the five-inch (12 cm) twist of brown hair, tied in a loop with a green silk thread and framed in a silk-lined case, would be sold on June 22. Byron, a bisexual, gave the memento to a fellow school pupil, John Fitzgibbon, for whom he had developed an idealised love, Bonhams said. It did not say who was selling the item. Byron lived from 1788 to 1824.

Ex-GI repays bicycle debt 100-fold

LONDON (R) — A former American soldier who "borrowed" a bicycle while stationed in England during World War II then found it had been stolen before he could return it, has repaid his debt 100-fold. Ex-GI Roger Johnson donated 100 bicycles to children living in four villages in Northamptonshire, where his regiment was based. "For almost 50 years I have regretted taking that bike. It is only now that I have come up with a plan that will ease my conscience to some extent," said Mr. Johnson, quoted in the Observer newspaper.

U.S. riots boost demand for butler/bodyguards

LONDON (R) — Recent riots in Los Angeles have boosted demand for butlers who double as bodyguards, according to a British school that trains them. The Ivor Spencer School for Butlers said it had placed six of them in the United States since the riots which began late last month, compared with only eight over the past two years. "People there are very scared, they don't think (the riots) will stop," said Ivo Spencer, the school's principal. The butlers, who are paid around \$60,000 a year, are taught how to use firearms and learn martial arts as part of their training, he said.

2 arrested on charges of vandalising satellite

LOS ANGELES (R) — Two men were arrested at a Rockwell International Corporation plant near Los Angeles after they damaged a \$50 million satellite with an axe, police said. Rockwell security guards captured the pair at the plant in Seal Beach, about 32 kilometres southwest of Los Angeles, and turned them over to police. Seal Beach Police Sergeant Michael Vasquez said. The two were booked on charges of burglary, vandalism and conspiracy. Prosecutors planned to demand bail of no less than \$1 million, he said. Police and Rockwell officials said they did not know the men's motive for damaging the Navstar Global Positioning System Satellite, which is worth about \$50 million. It was to be part of a group of satellites used by the U.S. military, private companies and individuals for navigation and guidance purposes. Rockwell spokeswoman Janet Dean said the men broke into a dust-free "clean room" at the plant and hacked at the satellite with an axe, damaging its outer skin.

Dutch find microchip dustbins cut rubbish

AMSTERDAM (R) — Residents in the Dutch town of Hoofddorp are throwing away less rubbish, after getting new dustbins implanted with a microchip, the Dutch News Agency (ANP) said. The "smart" bins, which measure how much refuse is being collected and allow the council to give refunds to people who throw away least, have cut household refuse by 13 per cent. Officials estimate that two-thirds of residents taking part in the 26-week test scheme had qualified for a refund.

Prince Charles to visit Hong Kong without Diana

HONG KONG (R) — Britain's heir to the throne Prince Charles will visit Hong Kong in November, but his wife Princess Diana will not be joining him. Local papers earlier reported Princess Diana would join her husband on the tour, which includes a trip to South Korea. But Hong Kong's government information service said the prince, 43, who visited the British colony with the princess in 1989, would not be accompanied by his wife.